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REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME*

(Eighteenth session)

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* The present document is a mimeographed version of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighteenth session. The final report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/50/25).

Report of the Governing Council on the work of its eighteenth session*

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* The full proceedings of the Council on the work of its eighteenth session, containing, inter alia, chapters on the discussions in plenary meetings and the reports of the sessional committees, is being circulated to Governments under the symbol UNEP/GC.18/40.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The eighteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 15 to 26 May 1995. The Council adopted the present report at the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May 1995.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

2. The eighteenth session of the UNEP Governing Council was opened on 15 May 1995 by Dr. E.O.A. Aina (Nigeria), President of the Council at its seventeenth session. Reviewing the work carried out since the seventeenth session, he said that efforts had been made to strengthen UNEP, enhance its programmes and obtain more funding commitments and pledges to contribute to the Environment Fund. Two major environmental conventions had come into force and the instrument for the restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF) had been adopted. However, there had yet to be significant progress in implementing Agenda 21 and budget reductions within the United Nations threatened to jeopardize vital UNEP programmes and the environmental activities of many developing countries.

3. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council heard a statement by the Executive Director of UNEP. The statement was subsequently circulated under the symbol UNEP/GC.18/34/Add.1.

4. At the same meeting, the Council also heard a statement by Mr. W. N'Dow, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat), delivered on his behalf by Mr. M. Hildebrand, Director of Programme Coordination, UNCHS (Habitat), who said that his organization's cooperation with UNEP had made considerable progress, particularly in the context of the Sustainable Cities Programme. While the two organizations had different mandates, there was a solid basis for complementarity and synergy. That was of particular importance in the preparations for the Habitat II Conference, to be held at Istanbul in June 1996.

5. The representative of Kenya welcomed the participants to Nairobi.

B. Attendance

6. The following 52 States members of the Governing Council[1] were represented at the session:

Argentina
Australia
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'ivoire
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark
France
Gambia
Germany
India

Indonesia
Iran (islamic republic of)
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Malaysia
Mexico
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Pakistan
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Senegal
Slovak Republic
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

7. The following States not members of the Governing Council but Members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency were represented by observers:

Algeria
Angola
Austria
Belgium
Benin
Burkina Faso
Comoros
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Finland
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guinea
Holy See
Iceland
Iraq
Israel
Kazakhstan
Kuwait
Lebanon
Lesotho
Malawi
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
New Zealand
Norway
Oman
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Saudi Arabia
Seychelles
South Africa
Suriname
Swaziland
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Viet Nam
Yemen

8. The following United Nations bodies and Secretariat units were represented:

Department of Humanitarian Affairs
Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (UNDPCSD)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO)
International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS)
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
Interim Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC)
Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

9. The Commission on Sustainable Development and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention to Combat Desertification (INC/CCD) were also represented.

10. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Universal Postal Union (UPU)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was also represented.

11. The following other intergovernmental organizations were represented:

Asian Development Bank (ADB)
European Community
Commonwealth Secretariat
Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
Inter-State Ecological Council (IEC)
League of Arab States
Organization of African Unity (OAU)
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS)
Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)

Preparatory Commission for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment Programme (PERSGA)
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)

12. In addition, 37 international non-governmental organizations were represented by observers.

C. Election of officers

13. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:	Mr. S. Shafqat Kakakhel (Pakistan)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. S. Ongeri (Kenya) Mr. P. Suian (Romania) Mr. P.F. Unwin (United Kingdom)
Rapporteur:	Mr. J.M. Ovalle (Chile)

14. In his acceptance statement, the President said that the state of the global environment presented some bewildering contradictions. Growing attention was being paid to the environment at the national and international levels but there was a growing gap between what needed to be done and the measures actually adopted. Despite some progress, the overall picture was one of unabated, indeed accelerated, degradation of the environment. In the circumstances, it was necessary to enhance UNEP's standing as a politically sensitive, technically and scientifically credible and well managed organization, so that it might receive the support and resources necessary to carry out its mandates.

D. Credentials of representatives

15. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Bureau examined the credentials of representatives attending the session. The Bureau found the credentials in order with one exception and so reported to the Council, which approved the Bureau's report at the 8th meeting of the session, on 25 May.

E. Agenda

16. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Council at its seventeenth session, as amended at its fourth special session (UNEP/GC.18/1):

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organization of the session:

    (a) Election of officers;

    (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Policy issues:

    (a) State of the environment;

    (b) Emerging policy issues;

    (c) Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations;

    (d) Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility.

5. Implementation of Agenda 21.

6. Environment and economics.

7. Administrative and budgetary matters.

8. Provisional agenda, date and place of the nineteenth session of the Council.

9. Other business.

10. Adoption of the report.

11. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of the work of the session

17. At the opening meeting of the session, the Governing Council considered and approved the organization of the work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.18/1/Add.1/Rev.1 and Corr.1) and the timetable of meetings suggested by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.18/1/Add.1/Rev.1 and Corr.1, annex I).

18. In accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure and following the organizational structure for its sessions decided upon at its fifteenth session (decision 15/1, section II, paragraph 2 of 25 May 1989), the Governing Council at its opening meeting established two sessional committees of the whole, a Programme Committee to deal with programme matters and a Committee for Administrative and budgetary matters to deal with the Environment Fund and administrative and other financial matters. The Council decided that the

Programme Committee should deal primarily with those parts of agenda item 4 (Policy issues) that concerned the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997, together with agenda item 5 (Implementation of Agenda 21) and agenda item 6 (Environment and economics). The Programme Committee would also take up the report of the Executive Director on review of the role and function of the regional representation of the United Nations Environment Programme, which had been issued under agenda item 7 (Administrative and Budgetary Matters). The Council also decided that the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters should deal exclusively with agenda item 7 (Administrative and budgetary matters).

19. It was agreed that the two sessional committees would meet concurrently during the first week of the session to complete their work by the afternoon of Friday, 19 May. Plenary would recommence at the ministerial or equivalent level, on Monday, 22 May, in keeping with section II, paragraph 2(b), of Council decision 15/1, to discuss the policy issues raised under agenda item 4 and the remaining items of the agenda.

20. The Council also agreed that the Programme Committee and Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters should be chaired respectively by Mr. P. Unwin (United Kingdom) and Mr. S. Ongeri (Kenya), vice-presidents of the Council. The Council also decided that Mr. P. Suian (Romania), Vice-President of the Council, would assist the President in the performance of his functions related to plenary.

21. The Council further decided to establish an informal open-ended negotiating group under the chairmanship of the President, Mr. S.S. Kakakhel (Pakistan), with a core membership of two representatives from each regional group to consider the texts of draft decisions on policy issues before their submission to the plenary meeting of the Council for formal consideration.

G. Work of the sessional committees

22. The Programme Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. P. Unwin (United Kingdom) held 13 meetings, from 15 to 20 May. At its 1st meeting, it approved the proposals for the organization of its work as contained in document UNEP/GC.18/PC/L.1. At its 2nd meeting, it elected Mr. W. Jasinski (Poland) as Rapporteur.

23. The Council took note of the Committee's report (UNEP/GC.18/39 and Corr.1) at its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 May.

24. The Fund Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Ongeri (Kenya), held 10 meetings, from 15 to 19 May. At its 1st meeting, on 15 May, it approved the proposals for the organization of its work as contained in document UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.1. At its 3rd meeting, on 16 May 1995, it elected Ms. D. Alopaeus-Stahl (Sweden) as Rapporteur.

25. The Council took note of the Committee's report (UNEP/GC.18/38 and Corr.1) at its 8th plenary meeting, on 25 May.

III. MATTERS REQUIRING THE SPECIAL ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND/OR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Date and place of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council

26. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Governing Council decided that its nineteenth regular session would be held at Nairobi, from 27 January to 7 February 1997.

27. It might be noted that in making its recommendation to the Council concerning the dates of the nineteenth session, the Bureau took into account "the strong desire of member States to hold the Governing Council meetings before the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development in order to provide the Council with the possibility to have a substantive input into the Commission's debates" (UNEP/GC.18/L.49, para. 2).

B. The role and priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme

28. By paragraph 1 of its decision 18/1 of 26 May 1995, the Governing Council appealed to Governments to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 on a priority basis. By paragraphs 2 and 3 of the same decision, the Council decided that the United Nations Environment Programme should concentrate on a number of major areas and that the major results of those activities should be: international arrangements to enhance environmental protection; periodic assessments and scientifically sound forecasts designed to support decision-making and the creation of an international consensus on the main environmental threats and responses; more effective coordination of environmental matters within the United Nations system; policy options and advice to Governments, multilateral organizations and others, which incoroporate the environmental dimension into the sustainable development process and strengthen environmental protection; and higher public awareness and greater capacity for environmental management and effective international responses to the threats of environmental degradation. By paragraph 5 of the same decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, as a contribution to his preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in 1997 to review the follow-up of Agenda 21, the report of the Governing Council (UNEP/GC.18/40).

C. Review of the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme

29. By paragraph 1 of its decision 18/2 of 26 May 1995, the Governing Council, determined to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme to enable it to fulfil its role as the central United Nations organ for the environment, decided to review at its nineteenth session the governing structures of the Programme with a view to itself taking action or, where

necessary, recommending to the General Assembly to take action to modify and streamline those structures to produce in them greater efficiency, effectiveness and transparency. By paragraph 2 of the same decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to propose options to this effect to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session, after consultation with Governments.

D. In-depth evaluation of the programme on environment

30. At its thirty-fourth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that an in-depth evaluation of the programme on environment be prepared for its consideration in 1995. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fifth session, held from 15 May to 9 June 1995, a report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat entitled "In-depth evaluation of the programme on environment" (E/AC.51/1995/3). The in-depth evaluation was considered by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at the 2nd and 3rd meetings of its thirty-fifth session, held on 15 and 16 May 1995. The Committee decided that the report, together with its conclusions and recommendations on it, should be transmitted to the Governing Council at its eighteenth session for consideration and appropriate action.

31. Accordingly, the Executive Director transmitted to the Governing Council at its eighteenth session, under cover of a note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.18/Inf.7), the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, as transmitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination by the Secretary-General, together with the relevant part of the draft report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fifth session (E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.29), which had been adopted by the Committee without amendment on 22 May 1995.

32. By its decision 18/5 of 26 May 1995, the Governing Council, having welcomed the in-depth evaluation of the programme on environment, requested the Executive Director to consider and take appropriate action on the recommendations therein and also to take due consideration of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as contained in its draft report.

33. In addition, by its decision 18/4 of 26 May 1995, the Governing Council, noting, inter alia, the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, requested the Executive Director to give high priority to developing a policy framework and appropriate mechanisms within the secretariat for working with appropriate non-governmental organizations involved in this field, including the assigning of the function of coordinator to an existing senior position.

E. International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

34. In paragraph 3 of its decision 18/25 of 25 May 1995, the Governing Council authorized the Executive Director to transmit, on its behalf, her report on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.18/23 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2), together with the comments of the Governing Council thereon, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, in accordance with Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975.

F. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1993-1994

35. In response to General Assembly resolutions 35/73 of 5 December 1980 and 39/168 B of 17 December 1984, by which the Assembly requested the Governing Council to continue to report every other year to the Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the overall implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and to make the necessary arrangements at each session for submitting a report to the Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the Governing Council, by paragraph 3 of its decision 18/26 of 26 May 1995, requested the Executive Director to submit her report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in 1993 and 1994 (UNEP/GC.18/3 and Corr.1), which included a report on the implementation of the Plan of Action in the Sudano-Sahelian region, on behalf of the Governing Council, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

36. By paragraph 7 of it resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994, on elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, the General Assembly requested the United Nations system, among others, to take action for the prompt implementation of the Convention and its relevant regional annexes upon its entry into force and in this regard to respond effectively to the needs in the African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean regions. By paragraph 8 of the same resolution, the Assembly urged the United Nations system, among others, to take actions and measures for the full and effective implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa.

37. In response, the Governing Council, by paragraph 4 of its decision 18/26, requested the Executive Director to participate actively in assisting Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement the Convention and the resolution on urgent action for Africa and to support the interim secretariat of the Convention. By paragraph 5 (b) of the same decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to contribute to the implementation of the Convention and the resolution on urgent action for Africa on the basis of the resources provided for under programme activities to implement chapter 12 of Agenda 21 in the developing countries, in

particular Africa, in close collaboration with the interim secretariat of the Convention. By paragraph 6 of the decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to report to it at its nineteenth session on the activities undertaken within the framework of the decision with a view to implementing the Convention.

G. Strengthening international cooperation in the monitoring of environmental problems

38. By paragraph 2 of its resolution 48/192 of 21 December 1993, the General Assembly requested the Executive Director to prepare and to submit to the Governing Council at its eighteenth session a report on the activities of the Programme in environmental monitoring, containing proposals and recommendations within the context of Agenda 21 and a review of Earthwatch, taking into account the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its seventeenth session, in cooperation with relevant entities within the United Nations system and, where appropriate, outside the United Nations system. By paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the Assembly invited the Governing Council to consider the above-mentioned report at its eighteenth session and to submit its conclusions and recommendations to the Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Economic and Social Council.

39. Accordingly, at its eighteenth session the Governing Council had before it a report by the Executive Director on Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment (UNEP/GC.18/4 and Corr.1), together with the report of the Secretary-General on chapter 40 of Agenda 21 (Information for decision-making and Earthwatch) (E/CN.17/1995/18), based on material assembled in partnership by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and UNEP as task managers for chapter 40 of Agenda 21 and Earthwatch, respectively, and the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council on the system-wide Earthwatch (UNEP/GC.18/33).

40. By paragraph 1 of its decision 18/27 A of 25 May 1995, the Governing Council took note of the report of the Executive Director on Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment, and the associated documents. By paragraphs 2 and 3 of the same decision, it urged all partner agencies and programmes to cooperate in implementing the system-wide Earthwatch and endorsed the recommendations of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in its report regarding the development of approaches to the linking of socio-economic and environmental assessment and reporting by UNEP and the system-wide Earthwatch. By paragraph 4 of the decision, the Council endorsed the refocused strategy of UNEP to undertake, at the request of Governments or their representative bodies, policy-relevant assessment and reporting of environment and development issues of international significance through cooperating networks of appropriate national and regional agencies, organizations or institutions, and to promote the development of data and information management capacity in those bodies situated in developing countries as necessary and appropriate to ensure their full participation. By paragraphs 5 and 6 of the same decision, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to continue providing assistance, within available

resources, to developing countries to build capacity to enable them to use and benefit from the data and information acquired through the Earthwatch programme and authorized her to transmit her report and decision 18/27 A, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

H. Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, specifically calling for action by UNEP

41. By paragraphs 1 and 2 of its decision 18/17 of 25 May 995, the Governing Council took note of the report of the Executive Director on issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions specifically calling for action by UNEP (UNEP/GC.18/28), and the actions indicated in the report, and authorized the Executive Director to present to future sessions of the Council her report on issues arising from General Assembly resolutions as an information document.

42. In addition to the General Assembly resolutions referred to elsewhere in the present chapter, the report of the Executive Director provided information on issues arising from resolutions 48/80 of 16 December 1993 and 49/80 of 15 December 1994 on the question of Antarctica, resolutions 48/38 of 10 December 1993 and 49/32 of 9 December 1994 on effects of atomic radiation, resolution 48/175 of 21 December 1993 on drought and desertification, resolution 48/191 of 21 December 1993 on the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, especially in Africa, resolution 49/111 of 19 December 1994 on the report of the Commision on Sustainable Development on the work of its second session, resolution 49/117 of 19 December 1994 on the Convention on Biological Diversity, and resolution 49/22 B of 20 December 1994 on early warning capacities of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters.

I. The United Nations Environment Programme and women in environment and development: message from the Governing Council to the Fourth World Conference on Women

43. By paragraph 33 of its resolution 49/161 of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly invited, *inter alia*, United Nations bodies to consider making concrete commitments and specifying action to meet the global priorities for the advancement of women by the year 2000 to be reflected in the Platform of Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women. In response to that invitation, the Governing Council, by paragraph 5 of its decision 18/6 of 26 May 1995, decided to send a message annexed to the decision to the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995. In the message, the Governing Council, *inter alia*, invites the Conference to give special attention to the environmental aspects of sustainable development in formulating its recommendations for the further advancement of women.

44. In addition, by paragraphs 1-3 of the same decision, the Governing Council took note of the report of the Executive Director on the role of women in environment and development (UNEP/GC.18/11) and her intention to integrate fully a gender perspective and balance into the work and activities of UNEP, welcomed the efforts of the Executive Director to achieve gender equality in UNEP, including through the setting of goals/targets, and urged Governments to assist the Executive Director in achieving those goals by proposing qualified candidates of both sexes for vacancies announced to Governments.

J. Future strategy document in the field of the environment

45. By its decision 17/16 of 21 May 1993, the Governing Council endorsed the Executive Director's recommendation, contained in her report on implementation and mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term environment programme (UNEP/GC.17/6), to assess the future arrangements for meeting the need for a strategy and planning document, in view of the new United Nations system-wide coordination arrangements being established. It further requested the Executive Director, by paragraph 3 of the same decision, to report to the Governing Council at its regular session in 1995 on the need for a United Nations system-wide strategy and planning document in the field of the environment.

46. Accordingly, at its eighteenth session, the Council had before a report by the Executive Director on the proposal for a future strategy document in the field of the environment as a successor to the system-wide medium-term environment programme (UNEP/GC.18/36 and Corr.1). Having taken note of the report, the Council, by paragraph 2 of its decision 18/13 of 26 May 1995, endorsed the assessment of the Executive Director that there is a need for a strategy document and recommended that such a document be prepared to provide for a mechanism to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to discharge its policy guidance and coordination mandate within the United Nations system. By paragraph 3 of the same decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to submit to the Council at its regular session in 1997 the draft strategy document, to become operational in 1998.

K. Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group

47. At its eighteenth session, the Governing Council had before it a report by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.18/36/Add.1 and Corr.1) outlining developments relating to the establishment of the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group pursuant to Governing Council decision 17/9 of 21 May 1993, by which the Council had endorsed the course of action proposed by the Executive Director in her report on arrangements for system-wide coordination and cooperation in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.17/12/Add.1) in order to enable her to discharge effectively the coordinating role required of UNEP by various legislative authorities.

48. By paragraphs 1-3 of its decision 18/14 of 26 May 1995, the Governing Council took note of the report of the Executive Director on the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group, welcomed the establishment of the Group as a flexible consultative and advisory body, meeting as and when required, to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to discharge effectively its coordination mandate, and decided that the Group should focus on assisting the Executive Director in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in addressing the major challenges, as set out in the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997. By paragraphs 4 and 5 of the same decision, the Council stressed that, in determining the terms of reference and future activities of the Group, full account should be taken of the role, responsibilities and work of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, and requested the Executive Director to report to the Council at its regular session in 1997 on the terms of reference and progress made in the work of the Group and proposed future activities.

L. Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development

49. By paragraph 2 of its resolution 48/174 of 21 December 1993, the General Assembly stressed the need for close cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development in implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in accordance with the relevant provisions of chapter 38 of Agenda 21.

50. At its eighteenth session, the Governing Council had before it a report by the Executive Director on environment and sustainable development (UNEP/GC.18/27 and Corr.1), which, *inter alia*, elaborated on the mandates and practice of the Governing Council and its secretariat in relation to the mandate and practice of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development. Having taken note of the report of the Executive Director, the Governing Council, by paragraph 2 of its decision 18/7 of 26 May 1995, stressed the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to focus on those system-wide activities of the United Nations system for which it has been assigned a special responsibility by Agenda 21, and the major policy issues and challenges in the field of the environment, as determined by the Governing Council. By paragraph 3 of the same decision, the Council emphasized the need for the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with its mandate and in implementation of Agenda 21, to continue to provide effective support to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the high-level policy forum for the discussions to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, *inter alia*, through the provision of scientific, technical and policy information and advice on the environment. By paragraph 5 of the decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to inform the Commission on Sustainable Development of the decision.

M. Good environmental housekeeping within the United Nations system

51. By paragraph 1 of its decision 18/10 of 25 May 1995, the Governing Council, convinced, inter alia, of the need for the United Nations, its specialized agencies and its other bodies to apply and observe good environmental housekeeping standards in their building design and office systems, requested the Executive Director to consider and recommend strategies for the promotion of best practice in environmental housekeeping for use by the United Nations Environment Programme at its headquarters and in its regional offices, and to advise and encourage the rest of the United Nations system to develop and apply similar strategies for continually improving their own environmental performance and promoting sustainable development. The Council further requested the Executive Director, by paragraph 2 of the same decision, to encourage bodies within the United Nations system in their respective regular reports, to report on the ways in which they have applied and observed the principle of good environmental housekeeping and the targets they have set themselves in this regard. By paragraph 4 of the decision, the Council requested the General Assembly to adopt a resolution calling for the application, as early as possible, of good environmental housekeeping practices by all institutions of the United Nations system on the lines indicated in the decision. Finally, by paragraph 5 of the decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to report to it at its regular sessions on the steps that have been taken and the progress achieved by the United Nations Environment Programme and other entities of the United Nations system under the decision.

N. Development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade

52. Paragraph 19.39 (d) of Agenda 21, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, states, inter alia, that Governments and relevant international organizations with the cooperation of industry should, in the light of the experience gained in the implementation of prior informed consent (PIC) procedures, invite relevant international organizations in their respective areas of competence to consider working expeditiously towards the conclusion of legally binding instruments. More recently, the International Conference on Chemical Safety, held in Stockholm in April 1994, and the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second and third sessions, held in New York in May 1994 and April 1995, recommended that the United Nations Environment Programme, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in close consultation with other international organizations, continue to evaluate and address problems with the implementation of the voluntary prior informed consent procedure and to develop effective legally binding instruments concerning the prior informed consent procedure.

53. By paragraph 1 of its decision 18/12 of 26 May 1995, the Governing Council, having taken note with appreciation of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the Implementation of the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade and of the task force established by the Group for the development of the instrument envisaged in chapter 19 of Agenda 21, authorized the Executive Director to prepare for and convene, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in consultation with Governments and other relevant international organizations, an intergovernmental negotiating committee with a mandate to prepare an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain chemicals in international trade.

54. By paragraphs 5 and 7 of the same decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to invite relevant international organizations to participate in the negotiating process for the development of the instrument and to convene, together with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a diplomatic conference for the purpose of adopting and signing an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade, preferably not later than early 1997.

O. Follow-up by the United Nations Environment Programme to major international events

55. By paragraph 1 of its decision 18/16 of 26 May 1995, The Governing Council took note of the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.18/26) on the implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of the following major international events: the presentation by the Secretary-General of his report entitled "An Agenda for Peace" and his subsequent position paper entitled "Supplement to An Agenda for Peace"; the submission by the Secretary-General of his reports on an agenda for development (A/48/935 and A/49/665); the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the International Conference on Population and Development; the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; and the World Summit for Social Development. By paragraph 2 of the same decision, the Council endorsed the follow-up proposals of the Executive Director as contained in her report.

56. In addition, with regard to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Governing Council, by paragraph 1 of its decision 18/34 of 26 May 1995, welcomed the action taken to date by the Executive Director in response to the Conference, including the establishment of a focal point and a task force within the United Nations Environment Programme to coordinate the Programme's activities relevant to the Barbados Programme of Action. By paragraphs 2 and 3 of the same decision, the Council urged the Executive Director to ensure that, in implementing the programme of work agreed by the Governing Council at its eighteenth session, appropriate attention is given to the needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States, and further urged her to encourage, through the

effective use and involvement of the task force in both programme activities and policy development, an integrated approach within the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing the issues of relevance to small island developing States.

P. Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies

57. In paragraph 26 of its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, reconfirmed in the fifth preambular paragraph of its resolution 48/174 of 21 December 1993, the General Assembly invited the Governing Council to report to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the experience gained within the United Nations Centre for Emergency Environmental Assistance, which had been established at the beginning of 1992, on an experimental basis, for a period of 18 months. In its decision 17/26 of 21 May 1993, the Governing Council decided, inter alia, to extend the experimental stage of the Centre for a further 12 months, during which time the Centre was, among other things, to develop a set of concrete proposals for the enhancement of the international response to environmental emergencies. It further decided that a governmental advisory meeting should be held in November 1993 for a first consideration of the findings of the extended experimental stage of and an initial drafting of proposals for decision.

58. Following the governmental advisory meeting, held as requested by the Governing Council in November 1993, and following a joint recommendation of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, a Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Department of Humanitarian Affairs Unit was established in the Department of Humanitarian Affairs as of 1 July 1994.

59. At its 45th meeting, the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme considered the report of the Executive Director on the Joint Unit, endorsed the joint recommendation of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and requested the Executive Director to implement it for an initial period of 12 months and to refer the question back to the Governing Council at its eighteenth session.

60. At its eighteenth session, by paragraphs 1 and 2 of its decision 18/19 of 26 May 1995, took note of the report of the Executive Director on improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies and welcomed the establishment of the Joint Unit. By paragraph 3 of the same decision, it invited Governments and relevant United Nations agencies, bodies and programmes to cooperate with the Joint Unit in its efforts to provide assistance to countries, in particular developing countries, facing environmental emergencies. By paragraphs 5 and 6 of the decision, it urged Governments in a position to do so to provide additional resources for the operation of the Joint Unit and requested the Executive Director to prepare a detailed progress report on the activities of the Unit for an in-depth review of its activities, its resources and structure, including the involvement and

contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the appropriateness of the location of the Unit, by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

Q. Application of environmental norms by military establishments

61. In its decision 17/5 of 21 May 1995, the Governing Council, inter alia, encouraged Governments to establish a national environmental policy for the military sector and invited the Executive Director to collect information on: national preparations and activities in order to ascertain that their military establishments conform to their environmental norms in the treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes; the contribution of the military sector in the achievement of national environmental policies; and assessments of the damage as well as the need for and feasibility of the clean-up and restoration of areas where damage to the environment has been caused by military activities.

62. At its second session, held in May 1995, the Commission on Sustainable Development invited the United Nations Environment Programme to consider the feasibility of arranging regional meetings, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions and regional organizations, on the implementation of Governing Council decision 17/5 and on how national environmental plans for military establishments relating to hazardous waste management can be designed and implemented (E/1994/33/Rev.1-E/CN.17/1994/20/Rev.1, chap. I, paras. 186 and 187).

63. By its decision 18/29 of 25 May 1995, the Governing Council, inter alia, took note of the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development and authorized the Executive Director to arrange, within available resources, regional meetings, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions and regional organizations, for the implementation of decision 17/5.

R. Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of the decisions concerning forest issues adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session

64. By paragraph 1 of its decision 18/30 of 25 May 1995, the Governing Council, having considered the decisions adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session, whereby further actions are required to improve the conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests, and having noted with satisfaction the establishment, under the aegis of the Commission, of an Open-ended Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to place the Programme's experience in helping nations to move forward on contentious environmental issues and arrive at consensus, as well as its expertise in environmental issues related to forests, at the disposal of the Panel, and to further develop and strengthen this expertise through those relevant elements of its approved work programme in order to contribute effectively to the work of the Panel. By paragraph 2 of the same decision,

the Council also requested the Executive Director to give full support to the implementation of the work programme of the Panel and the functioning of its secretariat.

S. Lead in gasoline

65. At its second session, the Commission on Sustainable Development noted the severe health impacts of human exposure to lead, endorsed the ongoing work on that issue in several international forums, and encouraged further efforts to reduce human exposure to lead (E/1994/33/Rev.1-E/CN.17/1994/20/Rev.1, chap. I, para. 169). At its third session, the Commission called upon all countries to consider, and all interested countries to develop, action plans with a view to phasing out or reducing the use of lead in gasoline, and invited them to inform it of their decision and progress, as appropriate, at its fourth session. By the same decision, the Commission called upon donor countries and financial institutions to assist developing countries in the financing and transfer of relevant technologies, in accordance with chapters 33 and 34 of Agenda 21.

66. In response to those decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Governing Council, by paragraph 1 of its decision 18/35 of 26 May 1995, called upon Governments to give full consideration to the costs and benefits of phasing out lead in gasoline, including the risks associated with increase aromatic components in the absence of catalytic converters. By paragraph 2 of the same decision, the Council urged countries that have not already begun to phase out the use of lead in gasoline, as well as appropriate international organizations and international financial institutions, to assist other countries in their efforts to achieve such a phase-out, in accordance with the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session, and to promote the transfer of technology towards the overall reduction of vehicular emissions. By paragraph 3 of the decision, the Council invited the Executive Director to participate in these efforts as appropriate, within available resources and without duplication of effort, as part of her broader efforts to promote more effective approaches to emissions control.

T. Technical cooperation among African countries for the building and utilization of capacities and the mobilization of resources for sustainable development in Africa

67. In paragraph 4 of its decision 18/39 B of 26 May 1995, the Governing Council, inter alia, authorized the United Nations Development Programme to carry out a comprehensive study of the feasibility, modalities, approaches, appropriate measures and resource requirements for the successful implementation of technical cooperation among African countries and to collaborate closely with the United Nations Environment Programme on those aspects of the study relating to environmental management and sustainable

development. The Council further authorized the Executive Director to request the United Nations Development Programme to present the report of the study to the Economic and Social Council at its 1996 session for policy debate.

U. Establishment of a United Nations Office at Nairobi

68. By its decision 18/43 of 25 May 1995, the Governing Council, inter alia, noted the proposal of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the creation of a United Nations Office in Nairobi with effect from 1 January 1996 and noted with appreciation the work done so far by both the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the process leading to the establishment of the United Nations Office in Nairobi.

69. By paragraph 1 of the same decision, the Council approved the attachment of administrative and conference-services staff of the United Nations Environment Programme to the United Nations Office in Nairobi, as set out in the report of the Executive Director on the subject (UNEP/GC.18/32/Add.1) and the payment of the cost of their emoluments from the management and administrative support costs budget of the Environment Fund, taking into account: (a) that the separate identities and equal status of the two organizations in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 47/212 of 23 December 1992 and 48/176 of 21 December 1993 should be maintained; (b) that the Secretary-General explores the possibility of providing the subsequent budgets for the United Nations Office in Nairobi on a basis comparable to that used for other United Nations offices based in other United Nations headquarters; and (c) that, as far as possible, the reduction of staff should be through redeployment and attrition in order to realize the savings projected in the establishment of the United Nations Office in Nairobi.

V. Prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement

70. By paragraph 1 of its decision 18/46 of 25 May 1995, the Governing Council, having welcomed the establishment of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in the United Nations Secretariat, requested the Executive Director, in consultation with the Office, to formulate and enact a specific plan of action for the United Nations Environment Programme which will heighten the awareness of all members of the staff of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the need to combat waste, fraud and mismanagement, and will establish practical measures and procedures which will enable them to do so. By paragraph 2 of the same decision, the Council urged that the plan of action should include the following measures: formulation of a concise definition of what constitutes waste, fraud and mismanagement, and the dissemination of this statement to all levels of the organization; promotion of uniform reporting procedures so that members of the staff, at all levels, may report suspected violations to a single local authority; ensuring that briefings on waste, fraud and mismanagement are included in both staff orientation and refresher courses; ensuring also that information on the range of penalties imposed on violators, including prosecution in cases of fraud, be

widely disseminated; and, local publication of offences uncovered, including the amounts of money lost and recovered, the offices in which violations occurred, and the disciplinary and follow-up actions taken by management. By paragraph 4 of the decision, the Council requested that, in the interests of transparency, Governments have access to: information on the status of all audit investigations, without prejudice to confidentiality; the results and recommendations of all audit investigations; and the response of the management of the United Nations Environment Programme. By paragraph 6 of the decision, the Council requested the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its regular sessions the biennial report of the Board of Auditors to the United Nations Environment Programme as an information document.

W. Mercure satellite telecommunications system

71. By paragraph 7 of its decision 17/38 of 21 May 1993, the Governing Council approved the Executive Director's proposal to finalize an agreement with the participants in the Mercure project in full prior consultation with and with the consent of the Government of Kenya, taking into consideration the telecommunications facilities in place, so as to enable the project to be implemented expeditiously.

72. Further to that decision, and after extensive consultation within the United Nations Environment Programme and with the United Nations telecommunications services and the Government of Kenya, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director General of the European Space Agency signed an agreement on 25 November 1994 for the United Nations Environment Programme to accept the donation of a satellite-based telecommunications system.

73. By its decision 18/47 of 25 May 1995, the Governing Council, having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Mercure satellite telecommunications system (UNEP/GC.18/21 and Corr.1), expressed its gratitude to the donors and the Government of the Republic of Kenya, encouraged Governments with environmental data to provide for all countries ease of access and delivery through this initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme; encouraged the minimization of operations costs and the further expansion of the initial programme to new countries and users, requested the Executive Director to ensure that a full review and cost-benefit analysis of the system and experience gained in its initial operation be carried out and that subsequent decisions on the use and operation of the system take fully into account the results of that assessment, requested the Executive Director to present the results of the assessment, and any actions taken in response to it, to the Governing Council at its session in 1997, or to present a status report if the assessment has not been completed by that time; authorized the Executive Director to finance the costs required to implement, manage and maintain the system in 1996-1997 by charging $700,000 to the management and administrative support costs budget of the Environment Fund and the remaining costs to Environment Fund projects, requested the Executive Director to examine the possibility that, in subsequent years, such costs shall be covered

by the management and administrative support costs budget and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session, and decided that the Mercure agreement should be submitted to the General Assembly for endorsement in accordance with relevant United Nations procedures.

IV. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS[2]

The role and priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 18/1)

74. At the 10th meeting of the eighteenth session, on 26 May 1995, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.29/Rev.1) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.29) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended in the informal negotiating group by the President in his capacity as Chairman of the group following informal consultations.

75. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Review of the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 18/2)

76. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.66) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, European Union, Ghana, India, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Uganda, and the United States of America, as amended by the President in his capacity as Chairman of the group after informal consultations.

77. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Globalization and the environment (decision 18/3)

78. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.65) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Latin American and Caribbean Group, as amended in the informal negotiating group by France and Malaysia.

79. The Secretary of the Council made an oral correction to the first line of the first subparagraph of the operative part of the draft decision.

80. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

81. Speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of Malaysia said that she wished to put on record her Government's reservations concerning any UNEP activities that sought to perpetuate the linkage between trade and environment, which her Government considered had the undesirable effect of providing the basis and pretext for non-tariff barriers on products from the developing countries. It had been with great reluctance that her delegation had continued to participate in the

discussions on the subject at the current session. She also requested that her statement should be taken into account in connection with the adoption of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 (see paras. 190-192 below).

82. The representative of China said that his country attached great importance to the subject matter of the decision and believed that UNEP should devote particular attention to it in the light of the situation facing developing countries and their particular circumstances. Concerning the studies and recommendations on the issue, the secretariat should not cause any unfavourable influence on the sustainable development and international trade of developing countries. He hoped that a wide range of views of the developing countries would be taken into account by the secretariat in its consideration of the issue.

The role of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 18/4)

83. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.55) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Australia, Canada, Chile, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa and Switzerland, as revised in the informal negotiating group by Australia on behalf of the sponsors.

84. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

In-depth evaluation of the programme environment (decision 18/5)

85. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.62) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by him in his capacity as Chairman of the informal negotiating group, as amended in the group by Egypt.

86. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The United Nations Environment Programme and women in environment and development (decision 18/6)

87. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.61) submitted by the President prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by China, Chile, European Union, Kenya, Nigeria, Norway and Zimbabwe, as revised by Sweden on behalf of the sponsors.

88. The representative of Sweden, introducing the draft decision on behalf of its original sponsors, drew attention to its annex, which was in the form of a message from the Governing Council to the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women, which was to be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995. Having introduced an oral correction to paragraph 4 of that annex, he said that the

issue of gender equality, particularly in the context of paragraph 2 of the draft decision, had to be seen in the perspective of the obvious need to respect the personal qualifications needed to fill specific vacancies.

89. The representative of Colombia introduced a number of corrections to the Spanish text of the draft decision.

90. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Environment and sustainable development: relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development (decision 18/7)

91. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.18/Rev.1) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.18) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended in the informal negotiating group by France, on behalf of the European Union, and Pakistan.

92. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Statement on the environment (decision 18/8)

93. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.22/Rev.1) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.22) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended in the informal negotiating group by Malaysia.

94. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Further development of international law aiming at sustainable development (decision 18/9)

95. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.26/Rev.2) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.26) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended in the Programme Committee (UNEP/GC.18/L.26/Rev.1) and by Switzerland, on behalf of a small working group, in the informal negotiating group.

96. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Good environmental housekeeping within the United Nations system (decision 18/10)

97. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.37), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by Argentina, Australia,

Canada, Colombia, European Union, India, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Switzerland and Zambia as amended by Bangladesh, Philippines, Malaysia and Rwanda.

98. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (decision 18/11)

99. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.58) submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic on behalf of the Arab Group.

100. The Executive Director said that the draft decision involved financial implications estimated at $150,000 above what was currently included in the budget.

101. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

102. Speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of the United States of America made the following statement and requested that it be included verbatim in the present report:

> "My Government supports the work of the United Nations Environment Programme. We do not, however, support the description in this resolution of the territories occupied by Israel in June 1968 as 'Occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories' because this could be seen as prejudging permanent status issues which must be negotiated by the parties concerned. We disavow this language. But given our favourable view of UNEP's work, we have chosen not to call for a vote on this resolution despite our disagreement with the language included in it."

103. The representative of Egypt, one of the Arab States that had sponsored the draft decision, wanted to place on record his country's satisfaction at the progress made along the path of global, just and lasting peace. He considered that such progress was due to the fact that all parties had come to realize that there was no other option but peace. The progress in the peace process, particularly after the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Accord in Washington, in September 1993, had enabled UNEP representatives to exercise, for the first time, their functions inside the occupied Palestinian territories in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The environmental situation in the occupied Arab territories was marked, as shown in the Executive Director's report, by a critical status quo. His country was of the view that establishing pillars of peace, fairness and stability required improving conditions in the environment, life and economy in the occupied territories, thus giving glimpses of hope to respond to causes of tension and instability. He was hopeful that the adoption of the decision by consensus would be the beginning of a new era of cooperation, understanding and striving for the peace and security to which one aspired.

104. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that the Islamic Republic of Iran believed that the so-called Middle East peace talks were not in the interest of Muslim people of the Palestine. The action taken by the regime of the occupied Quds in destroying Palestinian houses, building Jewish settlements, controlling drinking water, illegally and unlawfully occupying Palestinian territories, and so forth, all had destructive impacts on environment. However, in order to create a sound spirit of cooperation among members of the Governing Council, his delegation had not expressed any opposition regarding paragraphs (a) and (b)) of the suggested action in the report of the Executive Director on the issue (UNEP/GC.18/18 and Corr.1) or paragraph 1 of that document. The rest of the document was, however, constructive. His delegation had intended to create a suitable atmosphere for helping oppressed people of Palestine, but that should not be seen as a confirmation of the so-called Middle East peace talks or recognition of the regime of the occupied Quds which was the main cause of environmental degradation in the region. Therefore, his delegation reserved its position reserved on those paragraphs.

Development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade, and consideration of further measures to reduce the risks from hazardous chemicals (decision 18/12)

105. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.54) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.11) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives as amended in the informal negotiating group by Poland on behalf of a small informal working group.

106. The Executive Director said that the draft decision involved financial implications estimated at $1.7 million above what was currently included in the budget.

107. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

108. Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of Senegal introduced a proposal, supported by Australia, Colombia, the European Union, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Norway, Pakistan, Poland and the United States of America, for the inclusion of an additional operative paragraph reading as follows:

> "Welcomes the offer of the Government of the Netherlands to host a final session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee and a diplomatic conference for the purpose of adopting and signing an internationally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade."

Future strategy document in the field of the environment (decision 18/13)

109. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.23/Rev.1) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.23) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

110. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group (decision 18/14)

111. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.24/Rev.1) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.24) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended in the informal negotiating group by Canada.

112. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (decision 18/15)

113. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.20/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended on the recommendation of a small open-ended working group (UNEP/GC.18/L.20).

114. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of major international events (decision 18/16)

115. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.6/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.6).

116. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 18/17)

117. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.7/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.7).

118. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Estimates of the costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention (decision 18/18)

119. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.8/Rev.1) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.8) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives as amended in the informal negotiating group by Pakistan.

120. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies (decision 18/19)

121. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.2/Rev.1) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.2).

122. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Climate (decisions 18/20 A and B)

The Climate Agenda (decision 18/20 A)

123. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.21/Rev.1 and Corr.1) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.21) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives as amended in the informal negotiating group by France, on behalf of the European Union.

124. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (decision 18/20 B)

125. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.3/Rev.1) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.3).

126. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Joint IAEA/IMO/UNEP Working Group on the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea (decision 18/21)

127. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.9/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.9), as amended by Chile, supported by Argentina, Colombia and Cuba.

128. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

International environmental technology centres (decision 18/22)

129. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.4/Rev.1) submitted by the President prepared on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.4) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives as amended in the informal negotiating group by France supported by Malaysia, Mauritius and Senegal.

130. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Cleaner production, environmental technology assessment, awareness and preparedness for emergencies at international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts of exports (decision 18/23)

131. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.16/Rev.1 and Corr.1) submitted by the President prepared on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.16) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended in the informal negotiating group by France, Malaysia and the United States of America.

132. The representative of the United States of America said that the last four words of paragraph 9 of the draft decision should read "initial mechanisms of verification".

133. The draft decision, as amended by the representative of the United States of America, was adopted by consensus.

Action for countries with economies in transition (decision 18/24)

134. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.5/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representative (UNEP/GC.18/L.5) and amended by France and the Russian Federation.

135. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (decision 18/25)

136. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.12/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.12), as amended by France.

137. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1993-1994 (decision 18/26)

138. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.15/Rev.2) submitted by the President prepared on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.15) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives as amended in the informal negotiating group by Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, France, on behalf of the European Union, and Kenya.

139. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Earthwatch (decisions 18/27 A to C)

Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment (decision 18/27 A)

140. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.10/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.10), as amended by France and the Russian Federation.

141. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (decision 18/27 B)

142. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.13/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.13).

143. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

New state-of-the-environment report (decision 18/27 C)

144. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 Nay, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.30/Rev.1) submitted by the President prepared on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.30) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended in the informal negotiating group by France.

145. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Environmental indicators (decision 18/28)

146. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, (UNEP/GC.18/L.17/Rev.2), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.17), as amended by Colombia, France, Nigeria and the Russian Federation.

147. The Secretary read out an amendment to the descriptive title of the draft decision.

148. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Application of environmental norms by military establishments (decision 18/29)

149. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.27/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.27), as amended by France, Philippines and Russia.

150. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of the decisions concerning forest issues adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session (decision 18/30)

151. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.38), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by Gambia, India, Kenya and Nigeria, as amended by France.

152. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (decision 18/31)

153. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.44), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by Chile, Colombia, European Union, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mozambique, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

154. The Executive Director of UNEP said that the decision involved total financial implications estimated at $3.5 million, of which $1.7 million would be absorbed under the budget for the programme concerned.

155. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Persistent organic pollutants (decision 18/32)

156. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.45), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by Chile, Colombia, European Union, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mozambique, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

157. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

International coral reef initiative (decision 18/33)

158. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.52) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Australia, Djibouti, Japan, Philippines, Sweden and the United States of America, as revised in the informal negotiating group by the sponsors.

159. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Support from the United Nations Environment Programme for small island developing States and implementation of the Programme of Action of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (decision 18/34)

160. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.56) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Australia, Cuba, Italy, Mauritius, New Zealand and Pakistan.

161. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Lead in gasoline (decision 18/35)

162. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.48) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Mexico, Netherlands, Norway and the United States, as revised by the United States on behalf of the sponsors.

163. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Biological diversity (decisions 18/36 A and B)

Support to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (decision 18/36 A)

164. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.63) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by him in his capacity as Chairman of the informal negotiating group.

165. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Biosafety (decision 18/36 B)

166. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.46), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by Australia, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland, as amended by Egypt, India, Kenya Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria and Uganda, supported by Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Malaysia and Philippines.

167. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Environmental training (decisions 37 A and B)

Support for the environmental training networks (decision 18/37 A)

168. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.59) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

169. The Executive Director that the draft decision involved financial implications estimated at $2 million above what was currently included in the budget.

170. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Integrated environmental management training (decision 18/37 B)

171. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.39) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Australia, the European Union and Switzerland, as amended by Mauritius.

172. The Executive Director said that the decision involved financial implications estimated at $1.3 million above what was currently included in the budget.

173. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Regional representation (decisions 18/38 A, B and C)

Role and function of the regional representation of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 18/38 A)

174. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.25/Rev.1) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.25), as amended by Pakistan.

175. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Decentralization and strengthening of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 18/38 B)

176. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.47) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Latin American and Caribbean Group, as revised by Chile and Colombia.

177. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Strengthening of regional coordination (decision 18/38 C)

178. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.60) submitted by the President prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Latin American and Caribbean Group, as amended in the informal negotiating group by India and the United States of America.

179. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Regional programmes (decisions 18/39 A to E)

Regional programme support for Africa (decision 18/39 A)

180. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.57) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Zambia on behalf the African Group, as revised in the informal negotiating group by its sponsor.

181. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Technical cooperation among African countries for the building and utilization of capacities and for mobilization of resources for sustainable development in Africa (decision 18/39 B)

182. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.53) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the African Group as revised in the informal negotiating group by Kenya, on behalf of the African Group, and with amendments introduced by France, on behalf of the European Union, and the United States of America.

183. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Programmes of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the regional programme for West Asia (decision 18/39 C)

184. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.51) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of the Arab Group, as revised in the informal negotiating group by the sponsors.

185. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

North-East Asia Regional Environment Programme (18/39 D)

186. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.28/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.28), as amended by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Malaysia, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

187. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region (decision 18/39 E)

188. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.50) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as revised in the informal negotiating group by the sponsors.

189. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Proposed programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997 (decision 18/40)

190. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.67) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/9/Add.1/Rev.2) produced in the Programme Committee, as amended in the informal negotiating group by its Chairman after informal consultations.

191. The Secretary made an oral correction to paragraph 1 (a) of the draft decision.

192. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The Environment Fund (decisions 18/41 A to C)

Resources of the Environment Fund (decision 18/41 A)

193. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.31/Rev.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.31) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

194. On the proposal of the President, the Council agreed that paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft decision should be amended to bring them into line with paragraphs 2 and 3 of decision 18/40.

195. The amended draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Environment Fund: use of resources in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 and proposed use of projected resources in the biennium 1996-1997 (decision 18/41 B)

196. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.31/Add.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.5) submitted by the Chairman of the Committee, as amended by the United States of America and with the addition of the envelope for Fund programme activities for the biennium 1998-1999 agreed by the Committee.

197. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993 (decision 18/41 C)

198. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.19/Rev.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.19) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Uganda.

199. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Programme and programme supports costs budget of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1994-1995/Management and administrative support costs budget of the Environment Fund: proposed budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (decision 18/42)

200. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.42) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.6) submitted by the Chairman of the Committee, as amended by France, on behalf of the European Union, and the United States of America.

201. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Establishment of a United Nations Office in Nairobi (decision 18/43)

202. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.43) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.7) submitted by Uganda, as revised by the sponsor.

203. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Trust funds (decisions 18/44 A and B)

Management of trust funds (decision 18/44 A)

204. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.41) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.4) submitted by the Chairman of the Committee.

205. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Trust funds (other than convention-supporting trust funds) (decision 18/44 B)

206. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.40) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.3) submitted by the Group of 77 and China, as amended by Romania and Switzerland and revised by the sponsors.

207. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

New developments in conference-servicing (decision 18/45)

208. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.14/Rev.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.14) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the United States of America.

209. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement (decision 18/46)

210. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.35/Rev.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.35) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

211. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Mercure satellite telecommunications system (decision 18/47)

212. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.34/Rev.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.34) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Italy, Switzerland and the United States of America.

213. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

214. Following the adoption of the decision, the observer for the Philippines said that his delegation still believed that UNEP should have accepted fully the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the issue.

Enhancing the utilization of human resources and the level of expertise within the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 18/48)

215. At the 10th meeting, on 26 May 1995, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.33/Rev.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.33) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

216. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Individual and corporate consultancies (decision 18/49)

217. At the 8th meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.32/Rev.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.32) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the Netherlands, on behalf of an informal working group.

218. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Provisional agenda, date and place of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council

219. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a proposal by the Bureau concerning the date and place of the nineteenth regular session of the Council, together with a draft provisional agenda for the session (UNEP/GC.18/L.49).

220. It was agreed that the nineteenth session would be held in Nairobi from 27 January to 7 February 1997, in order to take account of the strong desire to hold the meeting before the session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and to enable an input to be made into that session. The draft provisional agenda was approved without amendment.

221. At the 10th meeting, on 26 May, the representative of Saudi Arabia said that his country and other Arab and Islamic States were concerned that the proposed dates of the nineteenth session of the Council would coincide with those of Ramadan and Id al-Fitr, religious holidays observed by Muslims worldwide. Pointing to the General Assembly resolution, whereby United Nations meetings should not be held to coincide with such religious holidays, he requested that the meeting be deferred until after 10 February 1997. He requested that his statement of position be placed in the record of the meeting.

Role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

222. Also at the 10th meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives submitted by the Group of 77 and China (UNEP/GC.18/L.64).

223. The draft decision was withdrawn by the representative of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the sponsors.

224. In withdrawing the draft decision, the representative of Pakistan said that the sponsors had felt deep regret and concern at the amendments that some members of the Council had wished to introduce into the draft decision. Those amendments seemed to indicate a lack of confidence in the Committee of Permanent Representatives and attempted to dilute its role and functions, whereas the sponsors of the draft decision felt that the Committee was irreplaceable. It was therefore with regret that, in order to avoid dissention, the Group of 77 and China had decided to withdraw the draft.

225. The representative of Colombia, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, said that that Group, not all of whose members were members of the Group of 77, fully supported the latter's position with regard to the draft decision.

Notes

[1] The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 35th plenary meeting of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the 95th plenary meeting of the forty-seventh session, held on 19 January 1993 and the 54th plenary meeting of the forty-eighth session, held on 11 November 1993 (decisions 46/306, 47/318 and 48/309).

[2] For the text of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its eighteenth session, see the annex to the present report.

ANNEX

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18/1. The role and priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972,

Noting paragraphs 38.21-23 of Agenda 21,[1] which recognize the need for an enhanced and strengthened role of the United Nations Environment Programme and its Governing Council,

Acknowledging that population, poverty, health, education, technology, patterns of production and consumption and the environment are closely interconnected within the overall framework of sustainable development,

Underlining the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen its role as the central United Nations organ for the environment, while avoiding duplication of work with other international organizations,

1. Appeals to Governments to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 on a priority basis;

2. Decides that the United Nations Environment Programme should concentrate its activities in the following major areas:

(a) Assessing and addressing existing and emerging critical issues in the field of the environment;

(b) Promoting international cooperation in the field of the environment and recommending as appropriate policies to this end;

(c) Acting as a catalyst to address major threats to the environment;

(d) Monitoring the status of the global environment through gathering and dissemination of reliable environmental information;

(e) Facilitating the coordination of the activities of all United Nations bodies on matters concerned with the environment, ensuring through cooperation, liaison and expert participation, that environmental considerations are taken into account in their activities;

(f) Supporting, upon request, environment ministries and other national environmental authorities, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in the formulation and implementation of their environmental policies, and related capacity-building activities;

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[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

(g) Furthering the development of international environmental law;

(h) Providing expert advice on the development and use of environmental economic concepts and instruments;

(i) Developing regional programmes for the environment;

3. Decides also that the major results of the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme should be:

(a) International arrangements to enhance environmental protection;

(b) Periodic assessments and scientifically sound forecasts designed to support decision-making and the creation of an international consensus on the main environmental threats and responses;

(c) More effective coordination of environmental matters within the United Nations system;

(d) Policy options and advice to Governments, multilateral organizations and others, which incorporate the environmental dimension into the sustainable development process and strengthen environmental protection;

(e) Higher public awareness and greater capacity for environmental management and effective national and international responses to the threats of environmental degradation;

4. Requests the Executive Director to take fully into account the present decision in shaping and executing the future programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme;

5. Requests the Executive Director to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, as a contribution to his preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in 1997 to review the follow-up of Agenda 21, the report of the Governing Council.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/2. Review of the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recognizing that there is a need periodically to review and refine the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme if its functions and responsibilities, as set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, are to be fulfilled in the most efficient, effective and transparent manner, Desiring to take the necessary steps to improve its structures in order to ensure achievement of these goals,

Determined to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme to enable it to fulfil its role as the central United Nations organ for the environment,

1. Decides to review at its nineteenth regular session the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme with a view to itself taking action or, where necessary, recommending the General Assembly to take action to modify and streamline those structures to produce in them greater efficiency, effectiveness and transparency;

2. Requests the Executive Director to propose options to this effect to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session, after consultation with Governments.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/3. Globalization and environment

Referring to paragraph 2.5 of Agenda 21,[1] which states that an open and multilateral trade system supported by the adoption of sound environmental policies, would have a positive effect on environment and contribute to sustainable development,

Taking into account paragraph 2.20 of Agenda 21, which indicates that trade and environment policies should be consistent and reinforce the process of sustainable development, taking into account the fact that environmental standards valid for developed countries may have unwarranted social and economic costs in developing ones,

Convinced that the activities in the programme should be consistent with the overall objectives of Agenda 21 and Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] in particular principle 12 of the Rio Declaration,

Taking into account paragraph 38.22 (h) of Agenda 21, where it is stated that international environmental law should continue to be developed, and considering the results of the second and third sessions of the Commission of Sustainable Development, at which the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme were requested to undertake various activities on trade, environment and sustainable development,

Urges the Executive Director to pay special attention to the following:

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[2] Ibid, annex I.

Regional and national particularities and the implications and impact of sustainable development for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, when:

(a) Evaluating the link between trade and environment policies, international agreements and trade, trade rules, and the development of methodologies to assess the effectiveness of policy instruments, including economic instruments, to achieve environmental protection and sustainable development in consultation with interested Governments;

(b) Providing technical assistance to Governments, where requested, for the analysis and formulation of environmental regulations and legislation to facilitate the implementation of international agreements at national level;

(c) Ensuring that the work under the subprogramme "Globalization and the environment" includes activities which the United Nations Environment Programme was invited to undertake by the Commission on Sustainable Development in its decisions on trade, environment and sustainable development and consumption and production patterns adopted at the second and third sessions of the Commission. In so doing, the United Nations Environment Programme should cooperate with all relevant international organizations.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/4. The role of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Noting the crucial partnership role identified for non-governmental organizations in Agenda 21,[1] in the advancement of sustainable development and environmental protection,

Further noting the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its review of the United Nations Environment Programme,[3]

Requests the Executive Director to give high priority to developing a policy framework and appropriate mechanisms within the secretariat for working with appropriate non-governmental organizations involved in this field, including the assigning of the function of coordinator to an existing senior position.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

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[3] See E/AC.51/1995/3, annex (circulated to the Governing Council by a note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.18/Inf.7)).

18/5. In-depth evaluation of the programme on environment

The Governing Council,

Having considered the note by the Executive Director on the in-depth evaluation on the environment programme,[4] transmitting to the Governing Council a note by the Secretary-General on the same subject[5] and the draft report of the discussion of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the in-depth evaluation,[6]

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General and welcoming the attached report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services entitled "In-depth evaluation of the programme on environment", as well as of the draft report and conclusions of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the matter,

1. Requests the Executive Director to consider and take appropriate action on the recommendations in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services entitled "In depth evaluation of the programme on environment";

2. Requests the Executive Director to also take due consideration of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as contained in its draft report.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/6. The United Nations Environment Programme and women in environment and development

The Governing Council,

Recalling principle 20 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] which holds that women have a vital role in environmental management and development and that their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development,

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[4] UNEP/GC.18/Inf.7.

[5] E/AC.51/1995/3.

[6] UNEP/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.3. The draft report was adopted without amendment by the Committee for Programme and Coordination on 22 May 1995.

Recalling its decision 17/4 of 21 May 1993 on the United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 49/161 of 23 December 1994 on the implementation of Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women[7] and, in particular, its paragraph 33, which invites, inter alia, United Nations bodies to consider making concrete commitments and specifying action to meet the global priorities for the advancement of women by the year 2000 to be reflected in the Platform of Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Recalling in particular the request in paragraph 24.10 of Agenda 21[1] for each body of the United Nations system to review the number of women in senior policy-level and decision-making posts and, where appropriate, adopt programmes to increase that number, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/71 of 31 May 1991, on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the role of women in environment and development[8] and her intention to integrate fully a gender perspective and balance into the work and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. Welcomes the efforts of the Executive Director to achieve gender equality in the United Nations Environment Programme, including through the setting of goals/targets;

3. Urges Governments to assist the Executive Director in achieving these goals by proposing qualified candidates of both sexes for vacancies announced to Governments;

4. Welcomes the proposals for the Programme's contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women set out in the report of the Executive Director and requests her to further elaborate those proposals;

5. Decides to send a message annexed to the present decision to the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995;

6. Urges the Executive Director to ensure an input and contribution from the United Nations Environment Programme on gender and environment in the preparation of other subsequent major conferences, in particular Habitat II;

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[7] Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10) chap. I, sect. A.

[8] UNEP/GC.18/11.

7. Requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Council at its nineteenth session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

Annex

1. Women and men are equal partners in sharing responsibility for the future of our Earth. Both genders are equally dependent on the capacities of ecosystems. Equitable access of women to and control over resources - land, money/credit, and decision-making at all levels is essential.

2. Women play a major role and make environmentally crucial choices in key areas of production as well as consumption affecting the environment in both rural and urban areas. Women must be engaged in environmentally sound action at the local level and in action which promotes the sustainable use of natural resources at all levels. Women's experiences and expertise of safeguarding the environment while at the same time seeking to ensure adequate and sustainable resource allocations within households and communities must be acknowledged and incorporated into decision-making processes.

3. As key partners in sustainable development, women have to be recognized and encouraged to fully participate in the furthering of environmental priority issues such as:

(a) Conservation and management of resources (land, water, air);

(b) Development of sustainable household energy;

(c) Sustainable human settlements development and management.

4. To further the active role of women regarding their specific needs and capabilities in relation to the environment, an integral strategy should be developed, which would include, inter alia:

(a) Awareness-building;

(b) Participation;

(c) Education.

This would enable women to address the environmental threats and reverse negative trends of environmental degradation and its deleterious effects on human health and well-being.

5. The role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations system and in its community of partners for the advancement of women as a means to safeguard the environment is to recognize women and facilitate their environmental education and their access to resources through developing a gender perspective in all the activities of the organizations.

The United Nations Environment Programme should develop this role and take women's experience and knowledge on board by offering equal job opportunities and providing gender-sensitive working conditions.

6. In the light of Agenda 21, in particular chapter 24, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme invites the Fourth World Conference on Women to give special attention to the environmental aspects of sustainable development in formulating its recommendations for the further advancement of women.

18/7. Environment and sustainable development: relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which gives the Governing Council a mandate, *inter alia*, to promote international cooperation in the field of the environment, to recommend, as appropriate, policies to that end and to provide policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system,

Recalling chapter 38 of Agenda 21[1] and, in particular, the statements therein that the United Nations Environment Programme is the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of the environment, that there will be a need for an enhanced and strengthened role of the United Nations Environment Programme and its Governing Council after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and that the Governing Council should, within its mandate, continue to play its role with regard to policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, taking into account the development perspective,

Reaffirming that the United Nations Environment Programme was established to protect and promote the enhancement of the human environment and that the quality of human life must constitute its central concern,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on environment and sustainable development,[9]

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Stresses the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to focus on those system-wide activities of the United Nations system for which it has been assigned a special responsibility by Agenda 21, and the major policy issues and challenges in the field of the environment, as determined by the Governing Council;

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[9] UNEP/GC.18/27 and Corr.1.

3. Emphasizes the need for the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with its mandate and in implementation of Agenda 21, to continue to provide effective support to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the high-level policy forum for the discussions to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, inter alia, through the provision of scientific, technical and policy information and advice on the environment;

4. Requests the Executive Director to inform the Commission on Sustainable Development of the present decision.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/8. Statement on the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/6 of 21 May 1993, in which the Council encouraged the Executive Director to continue to examine ways of improving the documentation to be provided as explained in her note on future state-of-the-environment reporting,[10]

Having considered the Executive Director's statement on the environment,[11]

Acknowledging the growing importance of the interface between global economic trends and environmental issues and, in particular, ways and means to bridge environmental assessment activities and environmental management responses,

Noting the new subprogramme, "Globalization and the environment", as contained in the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997,[12] and noting that sectoral linkages involving trade, law, environmental economics and other activities are also integrated into environmental assessment and management programmes,

Noting also the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development on international cooperation and inter-agency coordination in the field of trade, environment and sustainable development, adopted at its second and third sessions,

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[10] UNEP/GC.17/Inf.11.

[11] UNEP.GC.18/24.

[12] UNEP/GC.18/9.

Emphasizing the need to ensure close cooperation and avoidance of duplication among different international organizations in the area of trade, environment and sustainable development, particularly the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development,

Welcomes the proposed format of the Executive Director's statement and requests her to continue improving it.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/9. Further development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992 endorsing Agenda 21[1] and the other documents as adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and, in particular the principal environmental challenges identified therein,

Desiring to achieve the implementation of tasks set out in those documents,

Recalling chapter 38 of Agenda 21 on international institutional arrangements, which reaffirms the enhanced and strengthened role of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in providing policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, taking into account the development perspective, and urges the United Nations Environment Programme to concentrate, *inter alia*, on the implementation and further development of international environmental law,

Recognizing that chapter 38 of Agenda 21 further urges the United Nations Environment Programme to concentrate on coordinating functions arising from an increasing number of international legal agreements, *inter alia*, the functioning of the convention secretariats, and the provision of technical, legal and institutional advice to Governments, at their request, for developing and implementing national environmental legislation and institutions, providing training and disseminating legal information,

Recalling its decision 17/25 of 21 May 1993, by which it adopted the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s, and decided to review the implementation of the programme not later than at its nineteenth session, Recalling also the decision adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development on 27 May 1994 urging the United Nations Environment Programme to study further the concept, requirements and implications of sustainable development and international law,[13]

Welcoming the progress achieved in the implementation and development of international environmental instruments and the conclusion of environmental programmes of action,

Concerned that, despite the encouraging signs, three years after the adoption of Agenda 21 only limited progress has been made in the realization of its goals and objectives and that existing and proposed legal and institutional instruments and arrangements have so far been ineffective in halting the deterioration of the global environment,

Noting the need for enhanced policy guidance with regard to the direction and coordination of United Nations system activities in the field of environment in the context of sustainable development,

Believing that in order to achieve sustainable development it is imperative to address on a priority basis the principal environmental challenges, as contained in Agenda 21, including with reference to relevant social, economic and environmental aspects which should be considered in the contest of the development of international environmental law,

Noting with appreciation the efforts being made by the United Nations Environment Programme as well as other institutions, both within and outside the United Nations system, to further the implementation and development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development,

Believing further that innovative approaches are required in the field of the progressive development and codification of international environmental law in order to achieve sustainable development,

1. Requests the Executive Director to monitor the implementation of international legal instruments in the field of environment, to elaborate and recommend, where necessary, means to enhance their effectiveness and to provide support, as agreed, to the convention secretariats;

2. Requests the Executive Director to update, within available resources, a compilation of international environmental instruments, with a view to facilitating harmonization of international environmental law;

3. Requests the Executive Director, in implementing the mandate for a database on national and international environment law, to use the existing IUCN databank as the core archival system and, with view to avoiding

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[13] E/1994/33/Rev.1-E/CN.17/1994/20/Rev.1, chap. I, sect. A, para. 6.

duplication of efforts, provide the support necessary to enable it to serve the needs of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular to assist Governments of developing countries in this field;

4. Requests the Executive Director to develop, in preparing the periodic review of environmental law in accordance with Council decision 17/25, a position paper for international environmental law aiming at sustainable development, containing, inter alia, compliance/implementation mechanisms, dispute avoidance/settlement procedures and new concepts and principles, with reference to existing international legal instruments as well as guidelines developed by institutions both within and outside the United Nations system;

5. Requests the Executive Director, within available resources, to prepare a study on the need for and feasibility of new international environmental instruments aiming at sustainable development, addressing, on a priority basis, the principal environmental challenges, including as they relate to the broader issues of sustainable development as set forth in Agenda 21, and, in fulfilling this task, to draw upon relevant work and activities of other United Nations agencies and international organizations;

6. Requests the Executive Director to keep the Committee of Permanent Representatives informed of the progress of the United Nations Environment Programme on the subject and to submit a report thereon to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/10. Good environmental housekeeping within the United Nations system

The Governing Council,

Convinced that it is necessary for the United Nations, its specialized agencies and its other bodies to apply and observe good environmental housekeeping standards in their building design and office systems,

Recalling that under General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the Governing Council has, inter alia, the following functions and responsibilities:

(a) To provide general policy guidance for the direction and co-ordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

(b) To receive and review the periodic reports of the Executive Director on the implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system, Being of the opinion that the United Nations Environment Programme has, under the provisions of resolution 2997 (XXVII), a responsibility to offer policy guidance to the United Nations system on matters of good environmental housekeeping as well as on the application and observance of high standards in this regard,

Convinced of the importance of architects, builders, engineers and other professionals taking into account the environmental significance of global warming, acid rain, depletion of the ozone layer and other environmental issues in the design and maintenance of new and existing buildings used within the United Nations system,

1. Calls on the Executive Director to consider and recommend strategies for the promotion of best practice in environmental housekeeping for use by the United Nations Environment Programme at its headquarters and in its regional offices, and to advise and encourage the rest of the United Nations system to develop and apply similar strategies for continually improving their own environmental performance and promoting sustainable development, with the aim of:

(a) Reducing waste;

(b) Expanding recycling and use of recycled materials;

(c) Conserving energy, water, wood, paper and other natural resources;

(d) Phasing out ozone-depleting substances and minimizing the release of greenhouse gases, volatile organic compounds, vehicle emissions and other substances damaging to health and the environment;

(e) Using their spending power to encourage suppliers to design and provide products, materials, technologies and services which are friendlier to the environment;

(f) Advising architects, builders, engineers and other professionals to take fully into account global warming, acid rain, the depletion of the ozone layer and other environmental issues in the design and maintenance of new and existing buildings for the United Nations system;

2. Requests the Executive Director to encourage bodies within the United Nations system in their respective regular reports, to report on the ways in which they have applied and observed the principle of good environmental housekeeping and the targets they have set themselves in this regard;

3. Notes that any initial expenditure required to improve the performance of the United Nations as an environmentally responsible organization should be offset by long-term savings, for example, from cutting the consumption of energy, water and other resources and reducing waste, and that all expenditure should be designed to achieve maximum value for money, quality, improved performance and better health and comfort;

4. Requests the General Assembly to adopt a resolution calling for the application, as early as possible, of good housekeeping practices by all institutions of the United Nations system on the lines indicated above;

5. Invites the Executive Director to report to each regular session of the Governing Council on the steps that have been taken and progress achieved under this decision by the United Nations Environment Programme and other entities of the United Nations system.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/11. The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly principle 23 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2]

Taking note of the Executive Director's report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,[14]

1. Welcomes the activities which the United Nations Environment Programme is undertaking within the framework of the search for a just and durable peace in the Middle East, and requests the Executive Director to continue to intensify such support;

2. Expresses its concern over the continued degradation of the environmental conditions in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including those in the Palestinian National Authority, and urges the United Nations Environment Programme to take a prominent role in the activities of the Secretary-General's Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories in order to ensure that environmental concerns are given due priority in all the cooperative programmes under the jurisdiction of his office;

3. Requests the Executive Director to update the report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, in keeping with Governing Council decision 17/31 of 21 May 1993;

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[14] UNEP/GC.18/18 and Corr.1.

4. Requests the Executive Director to note and implement Governing Council decision 17/31 by which she was requested to provide technical assistance in Palestinian institutional and self-capacity-building in the field of the environment, including training in the relevant necessary fields.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/12. Development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade, and consideration of further measures to reduce the risks from hazardous chemicals

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 16/35 of 31 May 1991, on toxic chemicals, and chapter 19 of Agenda 21,[1]

Having considered the Executive Director's report on development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade,[15]

Aware of the concerns of the international community as regards the risks from trade and/or illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals, including pesticides, as reflected in chapter 19 of Agenda 21 and General Assembly resolutions 37/137 of 17 December 1982, 38/149 of 19 December 1983, 39/229 of 18 December 1984 and 44/226 of 22 December 1989,

Noting a recommendation by the International Conference on Chemical Safety held in Stockholm in April 1994, and the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second and third sessions, held in New York in May 1994 and in April 1995, that the United Nations Environment Programme, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in close consultation with other international organizations, continue to evaluate and address problems with the implementation of the voluntary prior informed consent procedure and to develop effective legally binding instruments concerning the prior informed consent procedure,[16, 17]

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[15] UNEP/GC.18/7 and Add.1.

[16] See the final report of the International Conference on Chemical Safety (IPCS/ICCS/94.8), resolution IPCS/ICCS/94/Res.2, annex, programme area C, para. 9.

[17] E/1994/33/Rev.1-E/CN.17/1994/20/Rev.1, chap. I, sect. E, para. 165.

Further noting an agreement at the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at its one hundred and seventh session, held in Rome in November 1994, that the secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations should proceed with the preparation of a draft prior informed consent convention as a part of the current Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/United Nations Environment Programme programme on prior informed consent and in cooperation with other international and non-governmental organizations concerned,[18]

Also noting the results of the first meeting of the Intersessional Group of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, held in Bruges, Belgium, from 20 to 23 March 1995, and all the work undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in relation to the prior informed consent procedure,[19]

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the Implementation of the Amended London Guidelines and of the task force established by the Working Group for the development of the instrument envisaged in chapter 19 of Agenda 21,

1. Authorizes the Executive Director to prepare for and convene, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in consultation with Governments and other relevant international organizations, within available resources, an intergovernmental negotiating committee, with a mandate to prepare an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade;

2. Invites the Executive Director to convene in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations a Government-designated group of experts, to consider, taking into account the work done in all relevant forums, including the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, the negotiations on the convention on prior informed consent and the activities to be undertaken in accordance with the Governing Council decision 18/32 of 25 May 1995 on persistent organic pollutants, and recommend what further measures are needed to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals, either within or beyond the scope of existing prior informed consent procedure, and requests the Executive Director to report thereon to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session;

3. Decides that at its nineteenth session, the Governing Council, taking into account the recommendations from the Government-designated group of experts, should give consideration to the need to develop further measures,

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[18] See Report of the Council of FAO, Hundred and Seventh Session, Rome, 15-24 November 1994 (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 1994), document CL 107/REP.

[19] See First Meeting of the Intersessional Group of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, Bruges, Belgium, 20-23 March 1995, Final Report, document ISG/95.11.

within or beyond the prior informed consent procedure, to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals, including the possibility that the mandate of the intergovernmental negotiating committee for the legally binding prior informed consent procedure be extended to provide a basis for development of such measures;

4. Decides that the intergovernmental negotiating committee shall commence its work as soon as possible and not later than January 1996;

5. Requests the Executive Director to invite relevant international organizations to participate in the negotiating process for the development of the instrument;

6. Calls upon Governments that are in a position to do so to provide the necessary financial and technical resources to enable the full and effective functioning of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, in particular the full and effective participation of developing countries, and of countries with economies in transition;

7. Also requests the Executive Director to convene, together with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a diplomatic conference for the purpose of adopting and signing an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade, preferably not later than early 1997.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/13. Future strategy document in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/16 of 21 May 1993 on implementation and mid-term review of the United Nations system-wide medium-term environment programme for 1990-1995,[20]

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the proposal for a future strategy document in the field of the environment as a successor to the system-wide medium-term environment programme,[21]

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director concerning the need for a United Nations system-wide strategy document in the field of environment;

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[20] UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.1.

[21] UNEP/GC.18/36 and Corr.1.

2. Endorses the assessment of the Executive Director that there is a need for a strategy document and recommends that such a document be prepared to provide for a mechanism to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to discharge its policy guidance and coordination mandate within the United Nations system;

3. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its regular session in 1997 the draft strategy document, to become operational in 1998.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/14. Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/9 of 21 May 1993 on the 1991 and 1992 reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination,[22]

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group,[23]

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Welcomes the establishment of the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group as a flexible consultative and advisory body, meeting as and when required, to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to discharge effectively its coordination mandate;

3. Decides that the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group should focus on assisting the Executive Director in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in addressing the major challenges, as set out in the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997;

4. Stresses that, in determining the terms of reference and future activities of the Group, full account should be taken of the role, responsibilities and work of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development;

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26 May 1995

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[22] UNEP/GC.17/11 and UNEP/GC.17/12.

[23] UNEP/GC.18/36/Add.1 and Corr.1.

5. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its regular session in 1997 on the terms of reference, progress made in the work of the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group and proposed future activities.

18/15. Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 14/3 of 18 June 1987, in which it requested the Executive Director to continue to increase cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), inter alia, in the four areas identified by the seventh joint meeting of the Executive Director of the Programme and the Bureau of its Governing Council with the Executive Director of the Centre and the Bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements,[24]

Recalling also its decisions 16/21 of 31 May 1991 and 17/10 of 21 May 1993 on cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985 on cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),[25]

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the increased cooperation between the organizations;

2. Notes that the problem of the adequate treatment and management of urban waste water is an issue on which the United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) can work jointly in a fruitful manner;

3. Requests the Executive Director in collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to report on the extent of the progress made in the implementation of the Sustainable Cities Programme;

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[24] See UNEP/GC.13/6, para. 18.

[25] UNEP/GC.18/29 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue her efforts to intensify such cooperation, particularly in relation to the Sustainable Cities Programme and associated areas included in the programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/16. Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of major international events

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 47/120 A of 18 December 1992, entitled "An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters", and 47/120 B of 20 September 1993, entitled "An Agenda for Peace",

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 49/126 of 19 December 1994 on an Agenda for Development,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994, in which the General Assembly endorsed the Declaration of Barbados, and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[26]

Finally recalling General Assembly resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, in which the General Assembly endorsed the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994,[27]

Mindful that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982[28] entered into force on 16 November 1994,

Bearing in mind the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, which was held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,

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[26] Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.8 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

[27] A/CONF.171/13 and Add.1, chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[28] Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of major international events,[29]

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Endorses the follow-up proposals of the Executive Director as contained in her report.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/17. Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 10/1, section I, of 31 May 1982,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme,[30]

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director and the actions indicated therein;

2. Authorizes the Executive Director to present to future sessions of the Council her report on issues arising from General Assembly resolutions as an information document.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

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[29] UNEP/GC.18/26.

[30] UNEP/GC.18/28.

18/18. Estimates of costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993, by paragraph 4 of which it requested the Executive Director to present to the Council at its eighteenth session her estimates of the costs for the Programme fully to implement those parts of Agenda 21[1] specifically recommended for the United Nations Environment Programme's attention,

Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on estimates of costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention[31] and requests the Executive Director to present broad-based estimates to the Council at its nineteenth session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/19. Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 16/9 of 31 May 1991, in which the Council established, on an experimental basis, the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance to assess and respond to man-made environmental emergencies, acting in cooperation and in coordination with other United Nations agencies,

Recalling also its decision 17/26 of 21 May 1993, in which the Council decided to extend the experimental stage of the Centre for a further twelve months, during which the Centre should restructure its activities to focus its capacities to address the mandate set out in paragraphs 4 (a) to 4 (d) of that decision,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies,[32]

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[31] UNEP/GC.18/30.

[32] UNEP/GC.18/2.

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs in successfully negotiating institutional and administrative arrangements for the establishment of a Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Department of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit in the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to enhance international capacity to respond to environmental emergencies,

Also noting the decision taken by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its forty-fifth meeting, held on 8 June 1994, to accept the Executive Director's proposal for the Joint Unit and to request the Executive Director to implement her proposals for twelve months and refer the question back to the Council at its eighteenth session,[33]

Noting further the establishment of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies which will, inter alia, review the work of the Joint Unit and advise the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator,

Recognizing that more time is required for the Joint Unit to develop its activities and services in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies;

2. Welcomes the establishment of the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Department of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit;

3. Invites Governments and relevant United Nations agencies, bodies and programmes to cooperate with the Joint Unit in its efforts to provide assistance to countries, in particular developing countries, facing environmental emergencies;

4. Requests the Executive Director to allocate the necessary resources for the biennium 1996-1997 for the administration and operation of the Joint Unit with strict regard to economy;

5. Urges Governments in a position to do so to provide additional resources for the operation of the Joint Unit;

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[33] UNEP/CPR.46/2/Rev.1, annex II.

6. Requests the Executive Director to prepare a detailed progress report on the activities of the Joint Unit for an in-depth review of its activities, its resources and structure, including the involvement and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the appropriateness of the Joint Unit's location, by Governing Council at its nineteenth regular session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/20. Climate

A. The Climate Agenda

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/24 C of 21 May 1993 on the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme,

Having considered the Executive Director's report on the Climate Agenda -- international climate-related programmes,[34]

Noting the availability of the Climate Agenda: A Proposal for an Integrating Framework for International Climate-related Programmes,[35] which encompasses all the climate-related activities of international organizations and which has been prepared jointly by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Council of Scientific Unions, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and the World Meteorological Organization,

Noting also that the Agenda is focused upon the needs of Governments and is designed to ensure maximum synergy,

Recognizing the need to support the requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[36] the implementation of Agenda 21[1] and the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Recognizing also that the overall aims and priority areas developed along the four thrusts identified by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme will only be attained through the participation of all

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[34] UNEP/GC.18/17 and Corr.1.

[35] Ibid, annex.

[36] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

States, which requires capacity-building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, realized through training and development, improved institutional arrangements and technology transfer,

Aware of the concerns of the Executive Committee of the World Meteorological Organization, expressed at its forty-sixth session, in June 1994,

1. Endorses the proposal that the United Nations Environment Programme be responsible for coordinating international activities under thrust 3 of the Climate Agenda, "Studies of climate impact assessments and response strategies to reduce vulnerabilities";

2. Urges the relevant international organizations to align their climate-related activities according to the priorities of the Agenda and to implement these activities, within available resources, and to establish adequate reporting and coordinating mechanisms for the World Climate Programme towards achievement of the aims of the Agenda;

3. Requests Governments to consider the need:

(a) To undertake those parts of the programmes for which they have the required expertise and capacity;

(b) To strengthen or establish national climate programmes required by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme;

(c) To cooperate in building the scientific and technical capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to enable their full participation in the Agenda;

(d) To provide a modest amount of additional resources to international organizations for the targeted purpose of coordinating the implementation of the Climate Agenda and for the overall management of the programmes, through the inter-agency Coordinating Committee for the World Climate Programme, and for the management of the individual thrusts.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

B. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/24 A of 21 May 1993 on the report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Having considered the report of the Executive Director on progress of work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,[37]

Noting with satisfaction the outcome of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Berlin from 28 March to 7 April 1995,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Requests the Executive Director, jointly with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, to continue the arrangements to support the Panel and to ensure the participation of specialists with appropriate expertise in its activities;

3. Requests the Panel to continue to update the assessments of available information on the science, impacts, response options and the technical aspects of the socio-economics of climate change and related methodologies for use and application by States parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[36] and other interested entities, taking into account in its assessments the needs arising from the special circumstances of the developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

4. Urges Governments to continue to support the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and to contribute to the trust fund for the Panel;

5. Further requests the Panel to report, through its Chairman, to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the progress of its activities.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/21. Joint International Atomic Energy Agency, International Maritime Maritime Organization, United Nations Environment Programme Working Group on the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/13 of 21 May 1993 on carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea,

Recalling also resolution A.748 (18), on the Code for the Safe Carriage of Irradiated Nuclear Fuel, Plutonium and High-level Radioactive Wastes in Flasks on Board Ships (INF Code), adopted by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization at its eighteenth session, held from 25 October to 5 November 1993,

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[37] UNEP/GC.18/12.

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on developments resulting from the work of the Joint International Atomic Energy Agency/International Maritime Organization/United Nations Environment Programme Working Group on the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea,[38]

Takes note of the report of the Executive Director and requests that the United Nations Environment Programme continue its collaboration with the relevant organizations in terms of its experience and expertise and report on progress in this regard to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/22. International environmental technology centres

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/21 of 21 May 1993 on international environmental technology centres,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international environmental technology centres,[39]

Recalling also its decision 18/40 of 26 May 1995, in which the Council adopted the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director, including the progress report on the International Environmental Technology Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme;

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[38] UNEP/GC.18/35.

[39] UNEP/GC.18/15.

2. Requests the Executive Director to make proposals on the Programme's own role and its partnership role in the context of international environmental technology centres, and on modalities for financing endogenous capacity-building of scientific and technological centres, in particular of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/23. Cleaner production, environmental technology assessment, awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level, and international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts of exports

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/17 of 21 May 1993, on transfer of environmentally sound technology, and paragraph 4 of its decision 17/18, on environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, of 21 May 1993,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on cleaner production, environmental technology assessment, awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level, and development of international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts that exporters of a technology could feasibly provide to importers,[40]

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Notes with appreciation the progress made in promoting cleaner and safer industrial production, including processes and products, through the awareness and prevention for emergencies at local level, cleaner production, and environmental technology assessment programmes and the role the Programme has played in disseminating these activities and in supporting national and regional initiatives, particularly in developing countries;

3. Notes also with appreciation the initiatives of Governments, United Nations and intergovernmental organizations, industry and business associations, and non-governmental organizations in supporting programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme in this field;

4. Expresses concern that environmentally unfriendly technologies continue to remain in use;

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[40] UNEP/GC.18/5.

5. Calls upon Governments to continue to give these programmes a high priority in their development policies and programmes, to support the efforts needed to promote them, as well as to provide and/or channel the technical and financial support conducive to these initiatives, particularly amongst small and medium-scale enterprises;

6. Calls upon United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and donor countries to continue to support these initiatives at the national and regional levels;

7. Calls upon national, regional and international funding agencies and banks to recognize the financial benefits of these programmes and to take the necessary steps to include them in their financing programmes;

8. Calls upon the Executive Director to continue to support Governments and industry in developing cleaner production demonstration projects, particularly in developing countries, countries with economies in transition, and small and medium-scale enterprises, and to continue to support and monitor the activities of the National Cleaner Production Centres;

9. Requests the Executive Director to proceed to develop draft international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts that technology exporters or suppliers should provide to technology importers or users and to develop initial mechanisms of verification;

10. Also requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on progress made in implementation of the present decision.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/24. Action for countries with economies in transition

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/27 of 21 May 1993 on action for countries with economies in transition,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 49/106 of 19 December 1994 on integration of the economies in transition into the world economy,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on implementation of Governing Council decision 17/27,[41]

1. Takes note of the progress achieved so far in assisting the countries with economies in transition with their environmental problems within the framework of the "Environment for Europe" process;

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[41] UNEP/GC.18/19 and Corr.1.

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue these efforts, including to develop the survey on the environmental activities and priorities in the European region into a database as a tool for policy- and priority-setting in the region.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/25. International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

Noting with appreciation the quality and usefulness of the Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of Environment, which is published and distributed by the United Nations Environment Programme biennially,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment;[42]

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue regular publication of the Register and invites her to consider the possibility of updating and disseminating it more frequently;

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit her report, on its behalf, together with any comments made by delegations thereon, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX);

4. Calls on States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify or accede to those conventions and protocols in the field of the environment to which they are eligible to become parties.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

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[42] UNEP/GC.18/23 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

18/26. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1993-1994

The Governing Council,

Recalling, in particular, General Assembly resolutions 35/73 of 5 December 1980 and 39/168 B of 17 December 1984, in which the Assembly requested the Governing Council to report, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,[43]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994 on elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1993-1994,[44]

1. Expresses its support for ongoing efforts by the United Nations Environment Programme to support the development of an updated assessment methodology for drylands and desertification, including the development of appropriate indicators, based on improved national approaches involving communities, as well as its efforts in increasing awareness of desertification and in disseminating targeted information materials to a range of media;

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue promoting cooperation and coordination of worldwide efforts to combat desertification and intensifying research and development in collaboration with leading world scientific institutions and centres of excellence on desertification and land degradation and drought issues, particularly on the social and economic aspects of these problems;

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to submit, on behalf of the Council, her report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in 1993 and 1994, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

4. Requests the Executive Director to participate actively in assisting Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in

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[43] Report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, Nairobi, 29 August - 9 September 1977 (A/CONF.74/30), part one, chap. I.

[44] UNEP/GC.18/3 and Corr.1.

Africa[45] adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994 and resolution 5/1 concerning urgent action for Africa adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Convention[46] and to support the interim secretariat of the Convention;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme Partnership to Combat Desertification signed on 26 April 1995;

(b) To contribute to the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa on the basis of the resources provided for under programme activities to implement chapter 12 of Agenda 21 in the developing countries, in particular in Africa, in close collaboration with the interim secretariat of the Convention;

(c) To invite other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, financial institutions, funds and other interested parties to join the partnership and contribute to local, national, subregional and regional efforts of developing countries to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the activities undertaken within the framework of the present decision with a view to implementing the Convention to Combat Desertification.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/27. *Earthwatch*

A. *Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment*

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/192 of 21 December 1993,

Taking note of the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development on this issue,

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[45] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

[46] See A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix III.

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment,[47] the report of the Secretary-General on chapter 40 of Agenda 21: information for decision-making and Earthwatch,[48] based on material assembled in partnership by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the United Nations Environment Programme as task managers for chapter 40 and for Earthwatch, respectively, and the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council on the United Nations system-wide Earthwatch,[49]

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment, and the associated information documents;

2. Urges all partner agencies and programmes to cooperate in implementing the system-wide Earthwatch;

3. Endorses the recommendations of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in its report to the Governing Council regarding the development of approaches to the linking of socio-economic and environmental assessment and reporting by the United Nations Environment Programme and the system-wide Earthwatch;

4. Endorses the refocused strategy of the Programme to undertake, at the request of Governments or their representative bodies, policy-relevant assessment and reporting of environment and development issues of international significance through cooperating networks of appropriate national and regional agencies, organizations or institutions, and to promote the development of data and information management capacity in those bodies situated in developing countries as necessary and appropriate to ensure their full participation;

5. Requests the Executive Director to continue providing assistance, within available resources, to developing countries to build capacity to enable them to use and benefit from the data and information acquired through the Earthwatch programme;

6. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit her report and the present decision, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

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[47] UNEP/GC.18/4 and Corr.1.

[48] E/CN.17/1995/18.

[49] UNEP/GC.18/33, annex.

B. *Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/11 of 21 May 1993,

Having considered the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council at its eighteenth session[49] and the report of the Executive Director on Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment,[47]

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee for its recommendations as an input into the Council's deliberations on the question of system-wide Earthwatch;

2. *Requests* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to continue to report to the Council at its regular sessions.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

C. *New state-of-the-environment report*

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which the Assembly, *inter alia*, conferred the following functions upon the United Nations Environment Programme: to keep under review the world environmental situation; to coordinate, review and assess environmental programmes within the United Nations system; and to finance, wholly or partly, the costs of new environmental initiatives undertaken within the United Nations system,

Recalling also its decision 17/6 of 21 May 1993 on state-of-the-environment reports,

Further recalling the reconfirmation of the Programme's mandate by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Noting the call of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for even greater efforts to coordinate environment and development activities in the United Nations system,

Noting with appreciation previous reports of the Executive Director on the state of the environment,

Stressing the overall objective of the integration of environment and development issues and actions, at the national, regional and international levels, including within the United Nations system, *Deeply concerned* that consensus cannot be reached on several essential issues in the field of environment and development within the United Nations system, which delays implementation of the principles and recommendations of Agenda 21,[1]

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a new, comprehensive report on the state of the world environment, which will consist of the following three parts:

(a) The present state of the global environment;

(b) The state of the global environment in the year 2015;

(c) The response: findings, conclusions and recommendations;

2. *Recommends* the inclusion in parts (a) and (b) of the report all essential problems of and threats to the environment, *inter alia*, the environmental status of the main components of the global ecosystem (waters, forests, soils and farming lands, ozone layer, etc.), basic trends in environmental change (for example, climate change, coastal and marine degradation, desertification, deforestation and habitat loss, pollution, soil degradation, ozone depletion, etc.); and the global effects of expected development growth, population increase and main trends in consumption, production and urbanization patterns (for example, energy consumption, transportation and sanitation problems, waste disposal, land reclamation and destruction, etc.);

3. *Also recommends* the inclusion in part (b) of the report of the expected impact of population increase, consumption and production patterns and economic development on the environment;

4. *Further recommends* the inclusion in part (c) of the report recommended measures and actions that could effectively reverse unwelcome trends and challenge principal threats to the environment and also specific institutional and legal measures for the implementation of proposed actions;

5. *Requests* that preparation of the report, which shall be undertaken within existing resources, be based primarily on the existing data collected and prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme, in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Bank and other United Nations agencies and bodies, and on the results of research and studies by public and private scientific and statistical institutions engaged in formulation of environmental and development assessments and forecasts;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to consult periodically with the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the preparation of the report;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to submit a first report for the consideration of the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/28. Environmental indicators

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/22 of 21 May 1993 on environmental indicators,

Recalling also the recent approval of a programme of work on indicators for sustainable development by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session, and its call for organizations of the United Nations system to contribute to its implementation,

1. Takes note of the Executive Director's progress report, including a plan of action on the development and use of environmental indicators;[50]

2. Endorses the plan of action of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental and sustainable development indicators to be carried out in collaboration with other agencies and parties.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/29. Application of environmental norms by military establishments

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/5 of 21 May 1993, on application of environmental norms by military establishments,

1. Takes note of the Executive Director's report on the application of environmental norms by military establishments;[51]

2. Takes note also of the recommendation by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session, in May 1994, inviting the United Nations Environment Programme to consider the feasibility of arranging regional meetings, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions and regional organizations, on the implementation of Governing Council

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[50] UNEP/GC.18/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

[51] UNEP/GC.18/6 and Add.1.

decision 17/5 and on how national environmental plans for military establishments relating to hazardous waste management can be designed and implemented;[52]

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to arrange, within available resources, regional meetings, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions and regional organizations, for the implementation of Governing Council decision 17/5;

4. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth regular session on the outcome of such regional meetings.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/30. Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of the decisions concerning forest issues adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session

The Governing Council,

Having considered the decisions of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, whereby further actions are required to improve the conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests,

Noting with satisfaction the establishment, under the aegis of the Commission, of an Open-ended Intergovernmental Panel on Forests,

Noting further that the Panel and its secretariat should draw particularly on the resources and technical expertise of relevant organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the International Tropical Timber Organization, as well as the secretariats of the relevant conventions,

Recognizing the experience that the United Nations Environment Programme has accumulated in helping nations to move forward on contentious environmental issues and arrive at consensus,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to place this experience and the Programme's expertise in environmental issues related to forests at the disposal of the Panel, and to further develop and strengthen this expertise through those relevant elements of the approved work programme of the United Nations Environment Programme in order to contribute effectively to the work of the Panel;

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[52] E/1994/33/Rev.1-E/CN.17/1994/20/Rev.1, chap. I, paras. 186 and 187.

2. Also requests the Executive Director to give full support to the implementation of the work programme of the Panel and the functioning of its secretariat.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/31. Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/20 of 21 May 1993, instituting a programme of meetings leading to a global intergovernmental conference for the purpose of adopting a programme of action to protect the marine environment from degradation by land-based activities,

Welcoming the progress made at the Preliminary Meeting of Experts to Assess the Effectiveness of Regional Seas Agreements, held in Nairobi from 6 to 10 December 1993,[53] the Meeting of Government-designated Experts Focusing on the 1985 Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment against Land-based Sources of Pollution, held in Montreal from 6 to 10 June 1994,[54] and the Meeting of Government-designated Experts to Review and Revise a Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, held in Reykjavik from 6 to 10 March 1995,[55]

Having noted the draft Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities[56] which will be submitted to the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities to be held in Washington, D.C., from 23 October to 3 November 1995,

Having noted also recent developments which are important in relation to the protection of the seas, such as the entry into force on 16 November 1994 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[28] the developments for enhancing the protection of the sea from the dumping of waste within the framework of the 1972 London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter,[57] the strengthening at the regional level of legal instruments for the protection of the marine environment against degradation from land-based activities, in particular within the framework of the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, the requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[36] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[58] and the ongoing implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal,[59] the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa and other relevant conventions on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal, with a view, inter alia, to preventing and regulating all risks and potential damage to the marine environment,

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[53] See the report of Preliminary Meeting of Experts to Assess the Effectiveness of Regional Seas Agreements (UNEP/LBS/WG.1/1/3).

[54] See the report of the Meeting of Government-designated Experts Focusing on the 1985 Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment against Land-based Sources of Pollution (UNEP/MG/IG/1/5).

[55] See the report of the Meeting of Government-designated Experts to Review and Revise a Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/ICL/IG/1/L.6).

[56] UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/3.

Recognizing that inadequate disposal of urban waste-water is one of the main problems affecting communities and ecosystems, stressing its implications for sustainable development in the developing world, including, inter alia, human health, infant mortality, and agricultural uses;

Noting that the use of environmentally sound technologies and facilities as well as available resources for ensuring adequate waste-water treatment in the developing world is at present limited and that therefore there is an urgent need to address the adverse socio-economic and health effects of waste-water;

1. Calls on all States, including those participating in regional conventions and programme for the protection of the marine environment, the regional seas programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the relevant international and non-governmental organizations, to consider the draft Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and to communicate any proposals for amendment to the Executive Director by 15 August 1995, for submission to the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities to be held in Washington, D.C., from 23 October to 3 November 1995. Such suggestions could, in particular, relate to, or be derived from, new or already planned land-based activities in fields such as urban development and planning, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing industry, aquaculture, harbour operations and management of river systems, and aim at ways and means by which the Programme

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[57] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1064, No. 15749.

[58] UNEP/Bio.Div/N7-INC.5/4.

[59] UNEP/WG.190/4.

of Action could contribute to the development of land-based activities in a sustainable manner and support their implementation in accordance with nationally or regionally agreed environmental planning;

2. Requests the Executive Director to produce the additional information on future funding requirements and opportunities, and on clearing-house activities, as was requested by the meeting of Government-designated experts in Reykjavik, and assemble, analyse and process any proposals communicated by States or relevant organizations, in particular those resulting from further regional consultations, and distribute this information in due time before the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference in Washington, D.C.;

3. Urges Governments to contribute additional resources to support the participation of developing countries in the Intergovernmental Conference in 1995, as well as any necessary intersessional preparatory activities;

4. Requests the Executive Director to take note of the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea Conference on Funding and Institutional Issues for the Washington Action Programme on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, due to take place in Rio de Janeiro in June 1995, and to relay any recommendations, in particular those that address the various needs of States and that may facilitate the adoption and implementation of the Global Programme of Action, in due time for information to the Intergovernmental Conference in Washington, D.C.;

5. Calls on States participating in the Intergovernmental Conference in Washington to consider how, within the Global Programme of Action, appropriate attention could be given to support action at national and regional level on urban waste-water management and treatment and persistent organic pollutants as was requested by the Reykjavik meeting of Government-designated experts, in accordance with available resources and capacities and taking into account the relevant principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[2] and the priorities of Agenda 21[1];

6. Requests the Executive Director to initiate action to ensure appropriate linkages between the elements of the draft Global Programme of Action on persistent organic pollutants and on management and treatment of urban sewage and similar action being developed in other forums. Initial actions related to persistent organic pollutants are contained in Governing Council decision 18/32 of 25 May 1995;

7. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To further, in cooperation with other appropriate agencies, projects aimed at the development of indigenous and basic systems for waste-water management, with focus on community-based systems and, where possible, stimulate water recycling;

(b) To provide for international know-how to assist developing countries in addressing in an efficient and effective manner the problem of adequate disposal and recycling of urban waste-water;

(c) To support activities undertaken by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the development of operating manuals for shallow sewerage systems, and other relevant human settlement waste-water treatment and management approaches;

8. *Calls on* States in a position to do so, and multilateral financing institutions, to cooperate actively in new and existing regional cooperation frameworks and to support States participants in such regional frameworks, at their request, to implement the provisions of the Global Programme of Action at the appropriate national, regional and international level and to enhance the capacity to prevent degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to make arrangements, in the period up to the nineteenth session of the Governing Council, to promote and facilitate the implementation of the outcome of the Washington Intergovernmental Conference, in cooperation with all relevant intergovernmental organizations;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure immediate and high priority for these activities and to programme adequate funds and staff to facilitate implementation within the available programme resources for the relevant year for activity 7.1.4.(a);

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the outcome of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/32. *Persistent organic pollutants*

The Governing Council,

Aware that persistent organic pollutants pose major and increasing threats to human health and the environment,

Noting chapter 17 (Protection of the oceans) of Agenda 21[1] which identifies reduction and elimination of emissions and discharges of organohalogens and other persistent organic pollutants as priority action, as well as chapter 19 (Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals) and other relevant conventions, and the precautionary approach as stated in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Recognizing the progress on a programme of action to protect the marine environment from degradation by land-based activities, including persistent organic pollutants, in the preparation for the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, to be held in Washington, D.C., from 23 October to 3 November 1995,

Noting ongoing regional cooperation to assess the risks associated with persistent organic pollutants, as well as to develop strategies and action to deal with these substances,

Aware that many persistent organic pollutants are transported over long distances globally by air and sea and therefore exist in measurable and increasing concentrations far from the original site of origin,

Mindful of the urgent need to improve scientific understanding of persistent organic pollutants, their sources, transport, and pathways as well as their effects on human health, environment and their socio-economic effects as a basis for development and adoption of effective and realistic response strategies, policies, and measures at the national, regional and global levels,

1. Invites the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, working with the International Programme on Chemical Safety, and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, with the assistance of an appropriate ad hoc working group, to initiate an expeditious assessment process, initially beginning with the short-list of persistent organic pollutants that is currently being discussed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in the context of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, adopted in Geneva on 13 November 1979.[60] This process should:

(a) Consolidate existing information available from the International Programme on Chemical Safety, the Economic Commission for Europe, and other relevant sources on the chemistry and toxicology of the substances concerned (particularly the impact on human, plant, and animal health);

(b) Analyse the relevant transport pathways and the origin, transport, and the deposition of these substances on a global scale;

(c) Examine the sources, benefits, risks and other considerations relevant to production and use;

(d) Evaluate the availability, including costs and effectiveness, of preferable substitutes, where applicable;

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[60] These persistent organic pollutants are: PCBs, dioxins and furans, aldrin, dieldrin, DDT, endrin, chlordane, hexaclorobenzene, mirex, toxaphene, and heptachlor.

(e) Assess realistic response strategies, policies and mechanisms for reducing and/or eliminating emissions, discharges and losses of persistent organic pollutants.

In undertaking these tasks, the circumstances of developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be taken into account;

2. Invites, based on the results of this process and the outcome of the Washington Conference, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety to develop recommendations and information on international action, including such information as would be needed for a possible decision regarding an appropriate international legal mechanism on persistent organic pollutants, to be considered by the Governing Council and the World Health Assembly no later than in 1997;

3. Requests the Executive Director to support the work of this process as necessary;

4. Calls on States, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, including regional economic organizations, and other relevant organizations to participate actively and provide contributions both for the assessment process and for the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/33. International coral reef initiative

The Governing Council,

Noting that many of the world's coral reefs are severely degraded or destroyed due to human activities,

Recalling that chapter 17 of Agenda 21[1] identifies coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds as marine ecosystems of high biological diversity and production and recommends that they be accorded high priority for identification and protection,

Noting the report of the United Nations Environment Programme-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission-Association of South Pacific Environmental Institutions-World Conservation Union Global Task Team on the Implications of Climate Change on Coral Reefs,[61]

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[61] C.R. Wilkinson and R.W. Buddemeier, Global Climate Change and Coral Reefs: Implications for People and Reefs. Report of the UNEP-IOC-ASPEI-IUCN Global Task Team on the Implications of Climate Change on Coral Reefs (IUCN, Gland, Switzerland, 1994).

Also noting that coral reefs have been designated as the coastal system chosen as the first to be developed within the coastal zone module of the Global Ocean Observing System,

Recognizing the initiative of Australia, France, Jamaica, Japan, the Philippines, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States to sponsor a workshop to promote an international coral reef initiative, to be held in the Philippines from 29 May to 2 June 1995,

Noting that the initiative builds upon and reflects the processes established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, which will address chapter 17 of Agenda 21 in 1996, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity,[58] which will address marine biological diversity in 1995, the 1995 intergovernmental meetings on protection of the marine environment from land-based activities, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[36] the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[28] and other relevant international programmes,

1. Welcomes the international coral reef initiative, which is a partnership of Governments, international organizations (including lending institutions), and non-governmental organizations to address capacity-building, research and monitoring and sustainable management and use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems;

2. Supports the establishment of a global coral reef monitoring network, as proposed as part of the coastal zone and shelf module of the Global Ozone Observing System by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Conservation Union, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the World Meteorological Organization and International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, within existing resources, to monitor the status of reefs and enhance their management;

3. Encourages the regional programmes of United Nations Environment Programme, particularly the regional seas programmes, to incorporate recommendations of the coral reef initiative workshop, as appropriate, into relevant United Nations Environment Programme activities and, whenever appropriate, to translate them into concrete supporting measures on protection and conservation;

4. Encourages continued participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the international coral reef initiative, particularly the international coral reef initiative planning committee, regional meetings, and forthcoming session at the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1996.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/34. Support from the United Nations Environment Programme for small island developing States and implementation of the Programme of Action of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[1] which recognized the particular vulnerabilities, both ecological and economic, of small island developing States and the special challenges they face in planning for and implementing sustainable development,

Noting the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados from 26 April to 6 May 1994,[62] in particular its Programme of Action,[63] which called for action at the international, regional and national levels,

Noting that at its fourth session, the Commission for Sustainable Development will consider chapter 17 of Agenda 21, including action taken to implement the Barbados Programme of Action,

1. Welcomes the action taken to date by the Executive Director in response to the Barbados Conference, including the establishment of a focal point and a task force within the United Nations Environment Programme to coordinate the Programme's activities relevant to the Barbados Programme of Action;

2. Urges the Executive Director to ensure that, in implementing the programme of work agreed by the Governing Council at its eighteenth session, appropriate attention is given to the needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States;

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[62] See Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Development States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April - 6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.8 and corrigendum).

[63] Ibid, chap.I, resolution I, annex II.

3. *Further urges* the Executive Director, through the effective use and involvement of the task force in both programme activities and policy development, to encourage an integrated approach within the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing the issues of relevance to small island developing States.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/35. *Lead in gasoline*

The Governing Council,

Recalling the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session, by which the Commission noted severe health impacts of human exposure to lead, endorsed the ongoing work on that issue in several international forums, and encouraged further efforts to reduce human exposure to lead,[64]

Noting with approval the efforts under way among countries to reduce exposures associated with the use of lead, in particular commitments made by a number of countries to develop action plans to phase out or reduce the use of lead in gasoline,

Noting also that, in order to maximize effectiveness and benefit to the environment, the elimination of lead in gasoline should be accompanied by the use of catalytic converters,

Further noting the decision adopted on 28 April 1995 by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session, calling upon all countries to consider and all interested countries to develop action plans with a view to phasing out or reducing the use of lead in gasoline, and inviting them to inform the Commission of their decision and progress as appropriate at its fourth session,

Noting also that the Commission in its decision called upon donor countries and financial institutions to assist developing countries in the financing and transfer of relevant technologies, in accordance with chapters 33 and 34 of Agenda 21,[1]

1. *Calls upon* Governments to give full consideration to the costs and benefits of phasing out lead in gasoline, including risks associated with increased aromatic components in the absence of catalytic converters;

2. *Urges* countries that have already begun to phase out the use of lead in gasoline, as well as appropriate international organizations and international financial institutions, to assist other countries in their

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[64] E/1994/33/Rev.1-E/CN.17/1994/20/Rev.1, chap.I, para. 169.

efforts to achieve such a phase-out, in accordance with the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session, and to promote the transfer of technology towards the overall reduction of vehicular emissions;

3. Invites the Executive Director to participate in these efforts as appropriate, within available resources and without duplication of effort, as part of her broader efforts to promote more effective approaches to emissions control.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/36. Biological diversity

A. Support to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Governing Council,

Noting General Assembly resolution 49/117 of 19 December 1994 on the Convention on Biological Diversity,[58]

Noting decision 1/4 adopted by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nassau from 28 November to 9 December 1994, on the selection of a competent international organization to carry out the functions of the Secretariat of the Convention,[65]

Welcomes the designation of the United Nations Environment Programme to carry out the functions of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and notes that it ensures the latter's autonomy to discharge the functions referred to in article 24 of the Convention.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

B. Biosafety

The Governing Council,

Recalling the objectives of chapter 16 of Agenda 21[1] on the promotion of environmentally sound management of biotechnology,

Further recalling the provisions of article 19 of the Convention on Biological Diversity[58] on handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits, in particular paragraph 3, calling on Parties to "consider the need for and modalities of a protocol setting out appropriate procedures, including, in particular, advance informed agreement, in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of any living modified organism resulting from biotechnology that may have adverse effect on the consideration and sustainable use of biological diversity",

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[65] See the report of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/1/7), annex II.

Noting the decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its first meeting, held in Nassau from 28 November to 9 December 1994, to consider the need for and modalities of a protocol on the safe handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology that have adverse effects on biodiversity, and other international work on biosafety,[66]

Affirming the desirability of the United Nations Environment Programme contributing to international efforts on biosafety while avoiding duplication with other international activities currently being undertaken by other organizations, in particular the work initiated by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

1. Welcomes the United Nations Environment Programme initiative to hold consultations on International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology and Related Capacity-Building Requirements;

2. Notes with appreciation that three regional expert consultations on International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology and Related Capacity-Building Requirements have so far been held and that further regional consultations are planned;

3. Supports, taking into account any relevant decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its second meeting, the holding of a global expert consultation on International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology and Related Capacity-Building Requirements at a time after the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

4. Endorses and supports United Nations Environment Programme sponsorship of regional consultations on International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology and Related Capacity-Building Requirements, noting the need for such a programme to avoid prejudging the consideration, initiated by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the need for and the modalities of a protocol on biosafety;

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[66] Ibid, decision I/9, para. 3.

5. Requests the Executive Director to consult closely with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the implementation of the present decision and report on progress to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/37. Environmental training

A. Support for the environmental training networks

The Governing Council,

Conscious of the need to strengthen the environmental training network which has played a major role in consolidating staff training in the Latin American and Caribbean region,

Recalling paragraph 34.15 of Agenda 21,[1] adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development,

Urges the Executive Director to strengthen the environmental training networks in each region, with a view to achieving the implementation of environmental education and training.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

B. Integrated environmental management training

The Governing Council,

Recalling that by decision 17/32 of 21 May 1995, 18 per cent of the Environment Fund was to be reserved for capacity-building to respond to the worldwide need for human resources that are motivated, informed, educated and trained in environmental matters,

Recalling also that in the follow-up to decision 17/32, the 1994-1995 programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme had set up a subprogramme on integrated environmental management training in order to strengthen the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to manage natural resources and the environment on a more integrated and sustainable basis,

Having considered the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997,[67]

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[67] UNEP/GC.18/9.

Acknowledging the efforts furnished by several Governments and individual universities to develop, with the United Nations Environment Programme, a series of training courses in integrated ecosystems management and environmental management for the benefit of qualified government officials and representatives of the business sector of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Taking into account that the backlog of potential trainees is far from exhausted and that the result of such training courses is continuous improvement in the level of environmental management where it is most needed,

Requests the Executive Director to ensure that such courses, as well as courses in collaboration with other bilateral and multilateral organizations, continue to be organized and that such a subprogramme is duly reflected in the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/38. *Regional representation*

A. *Role and function of the regional representation of the United Nations Environment Programme*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/28 of 21 May 1993, in which it requested the Executive Director to review the role and function of regional representation and inform the Council at its eighteenth session about the regional representation, regional offices and liaison offices of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting paragraph 38.23 of Agenda 21,[1] in which the United Nations Environment Programme is called upon to strengthen its regional offices without weakening its headquarters,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on review of the role and function of the regional representation of the United Nations Environment Programme, including a plan of action to enhance the process of strengthening the regional and liaison offices,[68]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director;

2. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations Environment Programme needs a strong regional presence to implement its mandate;

3. *Endorses* the measures that the Executive Director is implementing to strengthen the regional office system;

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[68] UNEP/GC.18/31.

4. Requests the Executive Director to keep under review the appropriate configuration of regional offices, the relationship between regional and outposted offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and future development of subregional offices as circumstances warrant and resources become available;

5. Stresses the need for cooperation and close coordination between the regional offices and the concerned regional economic commissions, and urges the Executive Director to consider co-locating, wherever possible and necessary, the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme in the same venues as the regional economic commissions.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

B. Decentralization and strengthening of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Being convinced that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, began a process that would help to achieve sustainable development in all countries of the world,

Considering that paragraph 38.23 of Agenda 21[1] establishes that the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme should be strengthened without weakening its headquarters in Nairobi, and recognizing the overall efficiency of the operations of the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi and particularly the cost and efficiency advantages,

Recalling Governing Council decisions SS.II/1 of 3 August 1990 and 16/1 of 31 May 1991,

Being also convinced of the need to adapt the existing structures connected with regional environmental cooperation to the challenges presented by the process begun at Rio de Janeiro,

Bearing in mind the decisions of the regional meetings of ministers of the environment,

Being concerned at the considerable reduction in the budget proposed for the biennium 1996-1997, which could affect the attainment of the objectives established,

1. Requests the Executive Director to continue the process of decentralizing the United Nations Environment Programme by strengthening the role and function of its regional offices by granting them greater functional and administrative capacities so as to achieve a greater flexibility in the annual programmes;

2. Agrees that the said process should include the following elements:

(a) The pertinent aspects of Agenda 21 relating to the importance of strengthening the regional role;

(b) Specific aspects of the role, functions and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme that could be strengthened by means of regional activity;

(c) Evaluation of the specific needs of the various regions;

(d) The climate of cooperation with other multilateral and regional organizations;

3. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that adequate transfers of resources are made available to the regional offices whenever it is planned that the integrated programme shall be implemented mainly through the regions;

4. Takes note of the relevant decisions adopted at the regional ministerial meetings;

5. Recommends that at least once a year the Executive Director should include in the agenda of the meetings with the Committee of Permanent Representatives the subject of strengthening the regional offices, in order to review the progress made and to exchange information and experience concerning the implementation of programmes and goals of the regional offices referred to.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

C. Strengthening of regional coordination

Considering that paragraph 38.22 (k) of Agenda 21[1] calls for regional cooperation and support to relevant initiatives and programmes for environmental protection, including a major contributing and coordinating role in the regional mechanisms to be played by the United Nations Environment Programme,

Considering that paragraph 38.23 of Agenda 21 establishes that the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme should be strengthened without weakening its headquarters in Nairobi,

Bearing in mind the need to strengthen national environment policies through coordination between countries and their respective Permanent Representatives,

Recognizing the importance of regional ministerial meetings on environmental matters in determining priorities for the various regions, *Aware* of the need to facilitate coordination mechanisms between the countries and their Permanent Representatives,

Calls upon the Executive Director, within available resources:

(a) To encourage the holding of annual regional meetings at the ministerial level in order to evaluate and design relevant policies and strategies to guide the activities of the regional offices;

(b) To hold consultations on an annual basis in Nairobi with the Permanent Representatives and delegations of countries, in order to assess the progress of the programme.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/39. *Regional programmes*

A. *Regional programme support for Africa*

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, by which the Assembly endorsed Agenda 21[1] and the emphasis it gave to regional environment and development priority activities as contained in the various regional common positions for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Reaffirming its decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993, endorsing the integrated approach to environment and sustainable development,

Appreciative of the effort made by the Executive Director in the integrated approach contained in the 1996-1997 programme of work and budget,[67]

Also appreciative of the continued inclusion of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment among the activities of the work programme and budget,

Concerned that the key priorities in the proposed programme do not respond adequately to Africa's major environmental concerns as expressed in the African Common Position on Environment and Development submitted to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development by Africa as addressed in the priorities of the new programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Believing that Africa's contribution to regional and global sustainability would be minimal if this inadequacy is not addressed,

1. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that in the implementation of the programme emphasis is placed on the following areas of major concern to Africa, which are included in the 1996-1997 programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme:

(a) Land resources:

(i) Support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[45] adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994, particularly the urgent actions for Africa; and

(ii) Conservation and rehabilitation strategies in conflict areas;

(b) Water resources:

(i) Strengthening African inland water management groups and regional technical cooperation networks;

(ii) Reclamation and rehabilitation of African lakes and wetland areas;

(c) Biological resources: promotion of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity[58] and related programmes in Africa;

(d) Coastal and marine resources:

(i) Updated inventory of coastal and marine resources of four African regional seas programmes;

(ii) Ratified and implemented African regional seas conventions and protocols;

(e) Major groups: support to the African preparations for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(f) Global and regional servicing and support:

(i) Support to the programmes of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and capacity-building of its secretariat;

(ii) Strengthening of the Regional Office for Africa;

(iii) Focus on capacity-building, especially greater support and training for implementing post-Rio national plans, environmental management systems, policies, programmes, international environmental conventions, regional agreements, protocols, treaties and conventions, and new national laws/frameworks for environmental protection;

(iv) Public awareness, information and participation programmes, including those aimed at providing tangible opportunities for working with major groups, especially women, youth, and local communities in the implementation of decisions of the Governing Council;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to implement the above activities within available resources;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the implementation of the present decision.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

B. Technical cooperation among African countries for the building and utilization of capacities and for mobilization of resources for sustainable development in Africa

The Governing Council,

Cognizant of the urgent need to promote environmental management and sustainable development in the African region,

Recognizing that African countries need to develop and fully utilize internal capacities and fully mobilize resources available in the region as the driving force in attaining desirable levels of environmental management and sustainable development,

Conscious of the central position that internal capacity-building and utilization and resource mobilization would play in environmental management and sustainable development, especially when supplemented by external capacities, where necessary,

Aware of the successes made in capacity-building and resource mobilization through the technical cooperation among developing countries mechanism and desirous to bring similar benefits closer home to Africa in the field of environmental management and sustainable development,

Convinced of the need for support for technical cooperation among African countries to contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21[1] in the region through capacity-building and utilization measures, Considering the position of the Conference of Ministers of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa on the subject of technical cooperation among African countries during its twenty-first session, held in Addis Ababa in May 1995,

Cognizant of Africa's disadvantaged role in the global political economy and hence the need for such initiatives and mechanisms to help lift Africa and place her on the path towards full participation in the global human development endeavour,

1. Urges the Executive Director:

(a) To work closely in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme to increase and focus support for technical cooperation among African countries in the field of environmental management and sustainable development through appropriate capacity-building and utilization measures and mechanisms, and, within available resources, to urge the United Nations Development Programme to explore the possibility of opening a special window for technical cooperation among African countries within the framework of the technical cooperation among developing countries mechanism as a starting point;

(b) To facilitate measures for promoting technical cooperation among African countries and capacity-building and utilization in the field of environmental management and sustainable development for the African region;

(c) To collaborate with the United Nations Development Programme in seeking support for the mobilization of resources from within the United Nations system, bilateral and multilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to facilitate the development and implementation of further measures for technical cooperation among African countries;

2. Further urges:

(a) Other members of the United Nations system, multilateral and bilateral agencies, international non-governmental organizations and the private sector to render concrete support to measures to promote technical cooperation among African countries in the field of environmental management and sustainable development;

(b) African Governments, local non-governmental organizations, universities and foundations and the local private sector also to support technical cooperation among African countries;

3. Requests the Executive Director to urge:

(a) The Economic Commission for Africa to incorporate environmental management and sustainable development into its capacity-building and utilization initiative for Africa;

(b) The Organization of African Unity and the subregional organizations (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Economic Community of West African States, Economic Community of Central African States, Arab Maghreb Union, Southern African Development Community, Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel) to incorporate measures and mechanisms for technical cooperation among African countries and capacity-building and utilization for Africa into the programming of their resource mobilization and policy design strategies;

4. Authorizes the Executive Director:

(a) To request the United Nations Development Programme to carry out a comprehensive study of the feasibility, modalities, approaches, appropriate measures and resource requirements for the successful implementation of technical cooperation among African countries and to collaborate closely with the United Nations Environment Programme on those aspects of the study relating to environmental management and sustainable development;

(b) To request the United Nations Development Programme to present the report of the study to the Economic and Social Council at its 1996 session for policy debate;

(c) To report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the results of these efforts as they relate to the field of environmental management and sustainable development.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

C. Programmes of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the regional programme for West Asia

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/28 of 21 May 1993 in which it requested the Executive Director, inter alia, to continue her efforts to link the implementation of the regional programmes undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme with other international organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and the regional economic commissions, in a coordinated manner,

Recalling also its decision 16/33 of 31 May 1991, in which it requested the Executive Director, inter alia, to encourage ways and means of facilitating the transfer and acquisition of technology by the developing countries in respect of cleaner production and its techniques,

Recalling further Agenda 21[1] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly chapter 34 on the transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building, and chapter 38 on international institutional arrangements, as well as its chapter 1, which calls for cooperation and implementation at the regional and subregional levels, _Noting_ the possibilities of improving and activating environmental activities in the Arab region, in general, and in West Asia, in particular, especially in the areas of capacity-building, provision and exchange of information, improving public awareness and education and combating desertification and pollution,

Expressing its appreciation of the results achieved by the cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment,

Recognizing the role of the Arab League Liaison Office in Cairo, in support of the cooperation between the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, and the United Nations Environment Programme and its regional offices,

Requests the Executive Director to support, within available resources, the goals and aims of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the Regional Office for West Asia, with particular reference to support for Arab priority project proposals within the framework of Arab programmes for sustainable development approved for implementation by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and Regional Office for West Asia.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

D. _North-East Asia Regional Environment Programme_

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/28 of 21 May 1993, in which it, _inter alia_, requested the Executive Director to continue making efforts to link the implementation of the regional programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme in a coordinated manner with other international organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and the regional economic commissions,

Recalling also its decision 16/33 of 31 May 1991, in which it, _inter alia_, called upon the Executive Director to promote the identification of ways and means to facilitate access by and transfer of technology to developing countries in respect of cleaner production methods, techniques and technologies,

Further recalling the Agenda 21 programme of action[1] as adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly its chapter 34 (Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building), and chapter 38 (International institutional arrangements), section I, on regional and subregional cooperation and implementation, Noting with appreciation the collaborating work of six Governments of the North-East Asian subregion, namely, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation, through senior officials' meetings on environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, substantively supported by the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, and supported technically by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank,

Taking into account the deliberations of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its fifty-first session, held from 24 April to 1 May 1995 on, inter alia, the subject of the North-East Asia Regional Environment Programme,

Requests the Executive Director to support fully, within available resources, the aims and objectives of the North-East Asia Regional Environment Programme so as to carry out the catalytic and coordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme through its strengthened regional office in Thailand and also its International Environmental Technology Centre in Japan, particularly in its work programme of the biennium 1996-1997, inter alia, by:

(a) Technical and financial support to the third meeting on environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, scheduled to be held in early 1996 in Mongolia; and

(b) Technical support to the priority project proposals unanimously adopted by the second meeting on environmental cooperation in North-East Asia for implementation.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

E. Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region

The Governing Council,

Noting the provisions of Agenda 21,[1] in particular its chapter 17, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[28] and the international efforts towards a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

Recognizing the importance of these provisions for the large coastal populations in the South Asian Seas region,

Taking into account the needs of the peoples in the region, particularly in the marine and coastal areas of the five maritime States of the region, namely, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, *Also noting* that the five above-mentioned States have agreed on an Action Plan and have made financial commitments for its implementation,

Calls upon the Executive Director:

(a) To give due attention, within the context of the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, to the further development and implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region;[66]

(b) To provide, within available resources, adequate finances and staff time for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/40. *Proposed programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997*

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 38.21 of Agenda 21,[1] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, reconfirming the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and requiring that its Governing Council "continue to play its role with regard to policy guidance and coordination in the field of environment, taking into account the development perspective",

Recognizing that the Governing Council in its decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993 noted, *inter alia*, that the programme of United Nations Environment Programme "will have to be further developed in the future in order to incorporate changes required by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development",

Noting also the views and concerns expressed by member States at the eighteenth session of the Governing Council, *inter alia*, calling upon the Executive Director to make the United Nations Environment Programme more efficient in its management of resources and delivery of programmes,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997;[67]

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[66] See *Final Act of the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region, New Delhi, 24 March 1995*.

1. Approves the integrated programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 with the provision that the Executive Director shall ensure, in implementing the programme, that all activities, in particular those under subprogrammes 4.1 and 4.2 are carried out in consultation with the countries concerned, especially with developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and in a manner which protects the interests of those countries. To this end, the Executive Director should adopt a balanced approach and take fully into account the concerns expressed:

(a) On the specific focus on trade and macro-economic policies in developing countries, in the activities listed under subprogrammes 4.1.1.2, 4.2.1.4, 4.1.1.1, 4.1.1.3 and 4.1.1.4; and

(b) On the need, within subprogramme 4.2.2.1, for the United Nations Environment Programme to focus on helping to mobilize resources to meet the environmental needs of developing countries.

On other programme activities, the United Nations Environment Programme should further give due consideration to the concerns of the Governing Council as expressed by its members at its eighteenth session. In implementing this programme, the United Nations Environment Programme should cooperate with Governments as well as with partners within and outside the United Nations system, while avoiding duplication of effort. The United Nations Environment Programme should also focus on activities in which it enjoys a comparative advantage;

2. Approves a core appropriation of 90 million dollars for Fund programme activities in 1996-1997 with an additional supplementary appropriation of 15 million dollars if and when funds become available;

3. Decides to apportion the appropriation for Fund programme activities in the biennium 1996-1997 as in the annex to the present decision;

4. Reconfirms the Executive Director's authority to adjust the apportionment for each budget line by 20 per cent, within the overall appropriation for Fund programme activities in 1996-1997;

5. Urges Governments to commit to meet their obligations by contributing to the Environment Fund in time;

6. Requests the Executive Director to continue mobilizing resources for the 1996-1997 programme of work;

7. Encourages the Executive Director that, in the implementation of the programme full consideration is given to partnership with relevant entities, the involvement of all sectors of society, and the strengthening of regional delivery.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

Annex

Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997
(percentage allocations)

Subprogramme elements	Fund programme activities 1996-1997	%
1. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES		**39%**
1.1 Caring for freshwater, coastal, marine resources	13,500	15%
1.2 Caring for biological resources	7,200	8%
1.3 Caring for land resources	8,100	9%
1.4 Information for decision-making and action planning	6,300	7%
2. SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION		**11%**
2.1 Sustainable production	7,200	8%
2.2 Reduced environmental impacts of energy utilization	1,800	2%
2.3 Environmentally sustainable production and consumption patterns	900	1%
3. A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING		**12%**
3.1 Reduced impacts of toxic chemicals and wastes	5,400	6%
3.2 Improved environmental management practices in urban areas	4,500	5%
3.3 Environmental change and emergencies	900	1%
4. GLOBALIZATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT		**8%**
4.1 Trade and the environment	900	1%
4.2 Environmental economics	900	1%
4.3 Environmental law	3,600	4%
4.4 Coordination and promotion of policy-relevant research	1,800	2%
5. GLOBAL AND REGIONAL SERVICING AND SUPPORT		**30%**
5.1 Environment assessment	5,400	6%
5.2 Support to regional and subregional cooperation	9,000	10%
5.3 Public awareness, education and outreach to major groups	8,100	9%
5.4 Design and implement a coordinated system for international environmental information exchange: UNEPNET	4,500	5%
Total	90,000	100%

18/41. The Environment Fund

A. Resources of the Environment Fund

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the status of the Environment Fund,[70]

Recalling its decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993 and, in particular, paragraph 5 thereof, by which it reaffirmed that, in conformity with Agenda 21[1] and in order to be able to exercise all the functions assigned to it in Agenda 21, the United Nations Environment Programme requires access to greater expertise and provision of adequate financial resources, particularly in accordance with chapters 33 and 38 of Agenda 21,

Recalling with concern occurrences of carry-overs of substantial cash balances from biennium to biennium,

1. Notes with great concern the deterioration of the environment and strongly stresses the need for urgent and immediate action;

2. Notes with appreciation the pledges and contributions made by Member States to the Environment Fund;

3. Notes further with deep concern that pledges and contributions for 1995 have not only fallen short of the target established by the Council, but may be insufficient to finance the Fund programme of activities approved by the Council at its seventeenth session;

4. Recognizes the need to broaden the base of contributions to the Environment Fund and calls upon all Governments to contribute to the Environment Fund or, where they are already contributing, to increase their contributions;

5. Urges Governments to make their pledges in advance of the year to which they relate and to pay their contributions early in the year in order for the secretariat to plan and execute the programme more effectively and avoid unnecessary carry-over of funds;

6. Requests the Executive Director to undertake a process of negotiating the amount and timing of pledges and contributions with Member States, in order to reverse the declining trend in contributions to the Environment Fund and to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully its programme;

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[70] UNEP/GC.18/14 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Corr.1.

7. Urges the Executive Director, in order to eliminate the practice of carrying over cash balances from biennium to biennium, to recommend to the Governing Council, for its approval, a minimum level of financial reserve which would ensure both the liquidity of the organization and the continuity of programme delivery;

8. Authorizes the Executive Director, pending receipt of contributions, to enter in to obligations up to one-half of the total amount of conditional government pledges,[71] and of firm pledges from organizations of established repute;

9. Further requests the Executive Director to analyse the causes of falling contributions, recommend solutions and to study ways and means of raising additional financial resources and periodically to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the progress made and report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth regular session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

B. The Environment Fund: use of resources in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 and proposed use of projected resources in the biennium 1996-1997

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of Executive Director on the Environment Fund covering the use of resources in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 and the proposed use of projected resources in the biennium 1996-1997,[70]

1. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments that have contributed or have pledged to contribute to the Fund at a higher level in 1994 and 1995;

2. Reconfirms that, in conformity with Agenda 21[1] and in order to be able to exercise the functions assigned to it, the United Nations Environment Programme requires access to greater expertise and provision of adequate financial resources;

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[71] "Conditional government pledges" shall mean the pledges which are subject to completion of the necessary legislative and administrative processes of the contributing Governments.

3. Approves an appropriation of 90 million dollars for Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997 and decides to apportion this appropriation between the subprogrammes as follows:

Subprogramme		Millions of dollars
1.	Sustainable management and use of natural resources	35.1
2.	Sustainable production and consumption	9.9
3.	A better environment for human health and well-being	10.8
4.	Globalization and the environment	7.2
5.	Global and regional servicing and support . . .	27.0
		90.0

4. Also approves an additional sum of 15 million dollars for Fund programme activities to be implemented if and when sufficient resources become available;

5. Approves an appropriation of 5 million dollars to the Fund programme reserve for the biennium 1996-1997;

6. Reconfirms the Executive Director's authority to adjust the apportionment for each budget line by 20 per cent, within the overall appropriation for Fund programme activities in 1996-1997;

7. Authorizes the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million dollars for Fund programme activities in the biennium 1998-1999;

8. Requests the Executive Director to prepare for the biennium 1998-1999 two alternative programmes for Fund activities of 105 million dollars and 130 million dollars respectively;

9. Authorizes the Executive Director to increase gradually the level of the financial reserve to 20 million dollars by 1999;

10. Approves the write-off of 3,963 dollars for 1990 and 19,554 dollars for 1991 in outstanding pledges;

11. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its regular meetings on matters of programme implementation and planning.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

C. Environment Fund: Financial report and audited accounts for for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993

The Governing Council,

Having considered the Executive Director's report on the Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993,[72]

Noting General Assembly resolution 49/216 A of 23 December 1994, in which it accepted the financial reports and audited financial statements and audit opinions and reports of the Board of Auditors,[73] and approved the recommendations and conclusions of the Board of Auditors and the comments thereon contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[74]

1. Takes note of the comments of the Executive Director on the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited financial statements of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993 and on the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. Requests the Executive Director to provide an information document to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on measures she has put in place in response to the queries raised by the auditors and the views expressed at the eighteenth session of the Council.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

18/42. Programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1994-1995/Management and administrative support costs budget of the Environment Fund: proposed budget for the biennium 1996-1997

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 4 of its decision 17/33 of 21 May 1993, by which it approved an initial appropriation of 41,829,500 dollars for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1994-1995,

Further recalling its decision 17/41 of 21 May 1993 on the financial management and structure of the United Nations Environment Programme, including presentation of financial information and the budget of the United Nations Environment Programme,

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[72] UNEP/GC.18/16.

[73] A/49/5/Add.6.

[74] A/49/547.

Having considered the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1994-1995 as well as the proposed management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1996-1997, as set out in the Executive Director's report,[75] together with the related comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[76]

1. _Takes note_ of the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1994-1995 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. _Notes_ that proposed changes in original appropriations for programme and programme support costs should be limited solely to non-discretionary cost increases;

3. _Recognizes_ the efforts undertaken by the Executive Director to comply with decision 17/41 by revising the budget format of the Programme but reiterates the need for clarity and transparency in the presentation of information on matters of budget and administration;

4. _Expresses concern_ at the comments contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, notes that the Advisory Committee has subsequently acknowledged the receipt of a response from the Executive Director[77] and requests that the further information provided to the Governing Council in the report of the Executive Director on the United Nations Office in Nairobi[78] and the note by the Executive Director on the report of the Advisory Committee[79] is transmitted to the Committee;

5. _Requests_ the Executive Director in this context to ensure that the Advisory Committee receives sufficient and timely information for its purposes in future, and asks the Executive Director to address fully the comments contained in its report;

6. _Notes_ that the Executive Director was able to contain the programme and programme support costs in 1994 within the limit established in paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 12/19 of 28 May 1984 of 33 per cent of estimated contributions, and that the Executive Director will endeavour to do likewise in 1995;

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[75] UNEP/GC.18/32 and Corr.1.

[76] UNEP/GC.18/L.1.

[77] UNEP/GC.18/32/Add.2.

[78] UNEP/GC.18/32/Add.1.

[79] UNEP/GC.18/32/FC/CRP.2.

7. Approves a revised appropriation of 41,048,900 dollars for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1994-1995, with the revised distribution by programme and object of expenditure proposed by the Executive Director;

8. Notes the proposal for a new budget format for a redefined programme and programme support costs budget to be known as the management and administrative support costs budget, to take effect on 1 January 1996 in accordance with the definitions set out by the Executive Director, and authorizes its use on an interim basis for the biennium 1996-1997, subject to review, any needed adjustment, and final approval by the Council at its nineteenth session;

9. Approves provisionally the staff redeployment and upgrading and the creation of the Ombudsman Unit, as proposed by the Executive Director in her reports on the proposed management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1996-1997[80] and on the United Nations Office in Nairobi,[78] on the condition that there is no overall increase in posts and budgetary allocations;

10. Requests the Executive Director to report annually to the members of the Governing Council on the activities of the Ombudsman, including any comments of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on those activities;

11. Decides to review at its nineteenth session the provisional transfers, upgrades and changes of personnel, including the position of the Office of Ombudsman, authorized in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the present decision, with a view to final approval of personnel assignments in the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme, as part of the reorganized structure for the management of the Programme;

12. Approves an appropriation of 41,964,000 dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1996-1997, with the expenditure pattern by programme and object of expenditure proposed in those estimates, as amended by paragraph 8 of decision 18/47 of 25 May 1995;

13. Requests the Executive Director to administer the appropriation for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1996-1997 with the utmost economy and restraint, consistent with the effective implementation of the environment programme, and to make every effort to reduce administrative expenditure under this budget, bearing in mind the reduced availability of resources;

14. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth regular session on the implementation of the management and administrative support costs budget during the first year of the biennium 1996-1997;

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[80] UNEP/GC.18/32 and Corr.1, part three.

15. Agrees that, pending a formal revision of the Financial Rules and General Procedures of the Fund, to be undertaken by the Council at its nineteenth session, the term "programme and programme support costs" in those Rules and Procedures shall be understood as referring to management and administrative support costs;

16. Reiterates its request to the Executive Director contained in paragraph 8 of its decision 17/41, to report in writing and consult with the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a quarterly basis on:

(a) The financial situation of the Environment Fund;

(b) The implementation of activities against budgets;

(c) Information on the staffing against established posts, and posts established by projects, trust funds, counterpart and other contributions and consultancies exceeding one month's duration;

(d) Information on all contracts concluded between the United Nations Environment Programme and cooperating agencies, supporting organizations or individuals.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

18/43. Establishment of a United Nations Office in Nairobi

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 47/212 of 23 December 1992 and 48/176 of 21 December 1993,

Noting the Secretary-General's proposal to the General Assembly on the creation of a United Nations Office in Nairobi with effect from 1 January 1996,

Noting with appreciation the work done so far by both the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the process leading to the establishment of the United Nations Office in Nairobi,

1. Approves the attachment of administrative and conference services staff of the United Nations Environment Programme to the United Nations Office in Nairobi, as set out in the report of the Executive Director on the subject[78] and the payment of the cost of their emoluments from the management and administrative support costs budget, taking into account:

(a) That the separate identities and equal status of the two organizations in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 47/212 and 48/176 should be maintained;

(b) That the Secretary-General explores the possibility of providing the subsequent budgets for the United Nations Office in Nairobi on a basis comparable to that used for other United Nations offices based in other United Nations headquarters;

(c) That, as far as possible, the reduction of staff should be through redeployment and attrition in order to realize the savings projected in the establishment of the United Nations Office in Nairobi;

2. Requests the Executive Director to keep the Committee of Permanent Representatives informed of the implementation of the present decision and to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth regular session on the progress made.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

18/44. Trust funds

A. Management of trust funds

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/39 of 21 May 1993 on the management of trust funds,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds,[81]

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Notes and approves the establishment of the following trust funds by the Executive Director, under the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, since the seventeenth session of the Governing Council:

(a) General Trust Fund for the Establishment of the Interim Secretariat of the Biological Diversity Convention - expiry date 31 December 1996;

(b) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Capacities of Developing Countries in the Management of Chemicals (financed by the Government of Switzerland) - expiry date 31 December 1995;

(c) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries in Africa (financed by the Government of the Netherlands) - expiry date 30 September 1997;

(d) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support National Land Degradation Assessment and Mapping in Kenya (financed by the Government of the Netherlands) - expiry date 31 May 1995;

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[81] UNEP/GC.18/13 and Corr.1 and 2.

(e) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Europe and to Strengthen the Pan-European Environmental Cooperation (financed by the Government of the Netherlands) - expiry date 31 December 1998;

(f) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action in Accordance with Agenda 21 (financed by the Government of Sweden) - expiry date 31 December 1995;

(g) General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity - expiry date 31 December 1996;

(h) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research in the Use of Geographic Information Systems in Agricultural Research Management (financed by the Government of Norway) - no fixed expiry date;

(i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Activities on Environmental Issues (financed by the Government of Japan) - expiry date 31 December 1995;

(j) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Promote Managerial Innovation and Excellence (financed by the Government of the United States of America) - no fixed expiry date;

(k) General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region - expiry date 31 December 1997;

3. Notes and approves the change of name of the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to UNEP/GRID (financed by the Government of Denmark) to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to UNEP/GRID (financed by the Government of the United States of America);

4. Notes and approves the extension of the following trust funds by the Executive Director:

(a) Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal - up to 31 December 1998;

(b) Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal - up to 31 December 1998;

(c) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme - up to 31 December 1997;

(d) Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - up to 31 December 2000;

(e) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Seas - up to 31 December 1996;

(f) Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals - up to 31 December 1997;

(g) Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer - up to 31 March 2000;

(h) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Finland) - up to 31 December 1995;

(i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility - up to 30 June 1997; and

(j) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Promote Technical Cooperation and Assistance in Industrial, Environmental and Raw Material Management (Financed by the Government of Sweden) - up to 31 December 1997;

5. Approves the extension of the following trust funds by the Executive Director, subject to United Nations Environment Programme receiving, in the case of general trust funds, requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties or, in the case of technical cooperation trust funds, the agreement of the Government concerned:

(a) Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region - up to 31 December 1997;

(b) Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean - up to 31 December 1997;

(c) Regional Trust Fund for Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates - up to 31 December 1997;

(d) Trust Fund for Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution - up to 31 December 1997;

(e) Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer - up to 31 March 2000;

(f) Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region - up to 31 December 1997;

(g) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action in Accordance with Agenda 21 (financed by the Government of Sweden) - up to 31 December 1997;

(h) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Activities in Developing Countries on Environmental Awareness and Machinery (financed by the Government of Germany) - up to 31 December 1997;

(i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to UNEP/GRID (financed by the Government of the United States) - not fixed;

(j) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Sweden) - up to 31 December 1997;

(k) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Establishment of the International Environmental Technology Centre in Japan - not fixed;

(l) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Develop and Coordinate the Implementation of the Plan for the Survey, Assessment and Dealing with the Consequences of Environmental Damage caused by Conflict between Kuwait and Iraq - up to 31 December 1997;

(m) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Financing of Professional Officers (financed by the Government of the Republic of Korea) - not fixed;

(n) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol (financed by the Government of Finland) - up to 31 December 1996;

6. Notes and approves the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director:

(a) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Clearing-house Mechanism through Provision of Consultancies on Strategies for Dealing with Serious Environmental Problems (financed by the Government of Norway);

(b) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Establishment of a Global Resource Information Database (GRID) Centre in Arendal (financed by the Government of Norway);

(c) Technical Assistance Trust Fund for an Integrated Pilot Project on Environmental Management and Protection of Andean Ecosystems Cajamarca, Peru (financed by the Government of Germany).

8th meeting
25 May 1995

B. Trust funds (other than convention-supporting trust funds)

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/39 of 21 May 1993 on trust funds administered by the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting that there is a sharp increase in the number as well as in the contributions to the trust funds,

Concerned at the increase in the cost of administering the trust funds by the United Nations Environment Programme, Concerned also that contributions to the trust funds are not being paid ahead of the year in which they are required, resulting in temporary advances from the limited resources of the Environment Fund,

1. Requests the donors to the trust funds to abide strictly by the terms of the trust funds;

2. Recommends that every effort be made to reduce expenditure on the administration of trust fund programmes and that, to the extent possible, expenditure on these programmes be met by the funds concerned;

3. Requests the Executive Director to undertake a cost management study of expenditure on administering trust funds, of resource shortfalls and of possible ways to overcome such shortfalls, if any, and report thereon to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to keep the Committee of Permanent Representatives fully informed of the measures taken in this regard.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

18/45. New developments in conference-servicing

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind its decisions 17/34, 17/36, 17/37 and 17/38 of 21 May 1993, all of which have an impact on conference-servicing at the United Nations Office at Nairobi,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on new developments in conference-servicing;[82]

2. Commends the Executive Director for the achievements in remote translation and the efforts to provide diskettes containing meeting documents to delegates attending meetings convened under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. Encourages the Executive Director to study further technological improvements in order to provide modern, cost-efficient conference services at Nairobi and for meetings elsewhere;

4. Requests the Executive Director to provide adequate communications facilities for the use of government representatives at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, including communications facilities between the Office and the city;

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[82] UNEP/GC.18/10.

5. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for cooperating with the Executive Director in providing the required infrastructure to facilitate the technological innovations programme for conference-servicing, in particular in the field of telecommunications, and urges the Government to continue such cooperation;

6. Requests the Executive Director to keep under review the financial viability of establishing a team of interpreters at Nairobi, and, if found financially advantageous, to establish a team on a pilot basis and, wherever possible, to offer interpretation facilities to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Economic Commission for Africa at cost;

7. Encourages the Executive Director to continue efforts to cooperate with other United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Economic Commission for Africa, in the provision of conference services;

8. Endorses the Executive Director's efforts to limit documents for the Governing Council to a maximum of four pages;

9. Requests the Executive Director to encourage convention secretariats administered by the United Nations Environment Programme to follow the same practice concerning documents;

10. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report on the issues referred to in the present decision to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

18/46. Prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the increased importance, complexity and costs of United Nations system activities, including those of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recognizing also the importance of the oversight function to ensure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity in the cost-effective implementation of the Programme's activities,

Recognizing further the important role of the Board of Auditors as an external control mechanism of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Welcoming the establishment of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in the United Nations Secretariat in July 1994, which has jurisdiction over all United Nations organs, including the United Nations Environment Programme,

Desiring that the United Nations Environment Programme works closely with the Office of Internal Oversight Services to prevent waste, fraud and mismanagement,

1. Requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the Office of Internal Oversight Services, to formulate and enact a specific plan of action for the United Nations Environment Programme which will:

(a) Heighten the awareness of all members of the staff of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the need to combat waste, fraud and mismanagement;

(b) Establish practical measures and procedures which will enable them to do so;

2. Urges that the plan of action include the following measures:

(a) Formulation of a concise and comprehensible definition of what constitutes waste, fraud and mismanagement, and the dissemination of this statement to all levels of the organization;

(b) Promotion of uniform reporting procedures so that members of the staff, at all levels, may report suspected violations to a single local authority;

(c) Ensuring that briefings on waste, fraud and mismanagement are included in both staff orientation and refresher courses;

(d) Ensuring also that information on the range of penalties imposed on violators, including prosecution in cases of fraud, be widely disseminated;

(e) Local publication of offences uncovered, including the amounts of money lost and recovered, the offices in which violations occurred, and the disciplinary and follow-up actions taken by management;

3. Recommends that the Executive Director produce and disseminate a single administrative handbook, tailored to the requirements of the United Nations Environment Programme, which would contain the aforementioned plan of action, provide a guide to the numerous administrative manuals regulating the United Nations Environment Programme and highlight those prescribed methods and practices which could be most subject to the abuses of waste, fraud and mismanagement;

4. Requests that, in the interests of transparency, Governments have access to:

(a) Information on the status of all audit investigations, without prejudice to confidentiality;

(b) The results and recommendations of all audit investigations;

(c) The response of the management of the United Nations Environment Programme;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to implement the provisions of the present decision in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its nineteenth regular session;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its regular sessions the biennial report of the Board of Auditors to the United Nations Environment Programme as an information document.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

18/47. Mercure satellite telecommunications system

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/38 of 21 May 1993, by paragraph 7 of which it approved the Executive Director's proposal to finalize an agreement with the participants in the Mercure project,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Mercure satellite telecommunications system,[83]

1. Expresses its gratitude to the donors for the generous contribution to the initial Mercure configuration that will facilitate access by the United Nations Environment Programme and its partners to services available through the emerging information highways, as well as allow the United Nations Environment Programme better to fulfil its mandate for delivery of environmental data in a more timely, cost-effective and efficient manner;

2. Also expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for its willingness to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme in the installation of this advanced system which will greatly enhance the timely exchange of environmental data and information on a worldwide basis;

3. Encourages countries with environmental data and information assets of value for the monitoring and management of environmental resources to provide for all countries, particularly developing countries, ease of access and delivery through this initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. Encourages the minimization of operations costs through efficient management by the United Nations Environment Programme and through arrangements in host countries that recognize the value of this asset without charges for its utilization;

5. Encourages the further expansion of this initial programme to new countries and users by seeking additional funding from other sources potentially available to the Programme and its integration with compatible systems existing within the United Nations;

6. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that a full review and cost-benefit analysis of the system and experience gained in its initial operation be carried out as soon as technically feasible, and that subsequent decisions on the use and operation of the system take fully into account the results of this assessment;

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[83] UNEP/GC.18/21 and Corr.1.

7. Further requests the Executive Director to present the results of the assessment referred to in paragraph 6 of the present decision, and any actions taken in response to it, to the Governing Council at its session in 1997, or to present a status report if the assessment has not been completed at that time;

8. Authorizes the Executive Director to finance the costs required to implement, manage and maintain the Mercure system in 1996-1997 by charging 700,000 dollars to the management and administrative support costs budget (communications) and the remaining costs, 1,295,000 dollars, to projects of the Environment Fund;

9. Requests the Executive Director to examine, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the possibility that, in subsequent bienniums, the costs for the implementation, management and maintenance of the Mercure system shall be covered by and presented under the management and administrative support costs budget and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session;

10. Decides that the Mercure agreement should be submitted to the General Assembly for endorsement in accordance with relevant United Nations procedures.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

18/48. Enhancing the utilization of human resources and the level of expertise within the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Desiring to ensure that human resources within the United Nations Environment Programme are effectively used and redeployed to higher-priority tasks, that duplications of function are eliminated and that the use of each staff position is periodically monitored for its maximum effectiveness,

Noting the Executive Director's recent expressions of concern that the level of expertise within the United Nations Environment Programme be raised and enhanced,

1. Welcomes the establishment by the Executive Director of a combined management body which reviews on a regular basis the need to fill vacant positions, the extension of contracts and the redeployment of staff;

2. Urges the Executive Director to arrange for the conduct of periodic human resource audits;

3. Requests the Executive Director to examine how the level of expertise in the United Nations Environment Programme might be further improved, possibly by the establishment of a firm staff rotational policy while maintaining a small core of Professional staff;

4. Requests that the Executive Director keep the Committee of Permanent Representatives informed of her efforts and report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/49. Individual and corporate consultancies

The Governing Council,

Noting that the United Nations Environment Programme incurs significant expenditure on individual and corporate consultancies,

Noting also with concern the reference to consultancies contained in the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited financial statements of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1992-1993, ended 31 December 1993,[74]

Emphasizing that such expenditure is being incurred at a time of increasing pressure on the limited financial resources in the Environment Fund,

Concerned that the award of consultancies should be fully justified,

Recalling that consultancies should not be awarded for work that should be done by the Programme's in-house staff,

Noting that a large number of consultancies are being awarded to nationals of only a few countries,

1. Requests the Executive Director to prepare and present to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on a quarterly basis, a report on consultancies, including, as far as possible, consultancies that the United Nations Environment Programme plans to award, so that the Committee may express its views;

2. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Committee of Permanent Representatives a statement listing the procedures to be followed in:

(a) Identifying the need for consultancies;

(b) Selecting consultancies;

(c) Assessing that duties have been properly performed;

3. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that the following principles are taken into account in the selection of the consultancies:

(a) Consultancies should be awarded on the basis of expertise and value for money;

(b) The number of consultancies should be kept to the minimum and the cost of each consultancy should also be kept to the minimum;

(c) Consultancies should be awarded only after it has been ascertained that no in-house expertise is available for the purpose;

(d) Consultancies should fit in with the work programme of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(e) Every effort should be made to select consultants from a variety of countries, including developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to the extent possible, taking due consideration of geographical balance and gender;

(f) Every effort should also be made to ensure that the nationals of no one country are awarded a disproportionate share of the amounts spent on consultancies;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to ensure that results of consultancies are evaluated by the United Nations Environment Programme;

5. Further requests the Executive Director to continue to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in accordance with present practice, with details of consultancies awarded. The Committee may also be provided with other information that it may require on consultancies.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

Other decision

1. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Governing Council decided, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, to hold its nineteenth session at Nairobi from 27 January to 7 February 1997.

2. The Council also decided that the informal consultations among heads of delegations should be held in the afternoon of Sunday, 26 January 1997, the day before the opening of the session.

3. The Council approved the following provisional agenda for the nineteenth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session.
    - (a) Election of officers;
    - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
    - (a) State of the environment;

(b) Emerging policy issues;

(c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations;

(d) Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme.

5. Preparations for the 1997 review and appraisal of Agenda 21.

6. Programme matters.

7. The Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.

8. Provisional agenda, date and place of the twentieth session of the Council.

9. Other matters.

10. Adoption of the report.

11. Closure of the session.
